[President.]

taken up for questions and answers, the time left over will be available for the voting of demands for grants. Such available time will not go to increase the time allotted to any particular demand but will be available to the House and thus enable them to reach more demands.

DEWAN-PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT RE: ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE, THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND THE P. W. D. ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The House will have to elect two members to the Standing Finance Committee, two members to the Public Accounts Committee and four members to the P. W. D. Advisory Committee. The elections will take place on Wednesday, the 8th August 1945 after the business of the day is over under the Chairmanship of the Deputy President or one of the Panel of Chairmen. The ordinary sytem of voting by ballot will be adopted.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Pathanapuram cum Shencotta*) (*Deputy President*): Sir, the Financial Secretary's speech introducing the Budget estimates for the coming year is a remarkable document, remarkable for its lucidity and for its very clear exposition of the finances of the State. A word of praise is certainly due to him from this House on that score. The revenues of the State have attained unprecedented heights. The revenue which was at the 5 crore level in the year 1119 is expected to rise to the 6 crore level in 1120 and I am optimistic enough to believe that it may cross the 7 crore level in 1121. Sir, this has enabled our State to move to a high rank among the Indian States. From the point of view of revenue, our State stands next only to Hyderabad and Mysore and has left several other States of comparable size far behind.

The Budget is remarkable not only as a Budget which has been prepared to meet the requirements of the next 12 months but is also notable for the policy which underlies the estimates. It not only serves the requirements of the next year but also provides for a post-war reconstruction programme. It lays special emphasis on the industrialisation programme with which is bound up the future prosperity of the State.

One prominent feature of the Budget estimates which I would refer to at the very outset is the fact that Government are now having fluid resources to the extent of 5 crores of rupees, out of which about 269 lakhs is cash, 198 lakhs is in the form of gilt-edged securities and about 41 lakhs in the shape of short term deposits.

PRESIDENT: But that does not take into account the value of the food grains which comes roughly to over 2 1/2 crores. All told it is about 8 crores.

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RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: Thank you, Sir. Therefore the fluid resources come to the extent of 8 crores. That is only in consonance with the programme of the Government relating to reconstruction and it is intended to meet all requirements of the State in the immediate future. I would, therefore, congratulate Government on having attained this position which would enable them to meet every situation in the country.

I propose to refer to a few general topics. But before I do so I would like to make some comments on certain Budget estimates, both under revenue and under expenditure. Sir, our revenues have shown phenomenal improvement during the last few years. If you take the year 1119 as the basic year, you will find that the revenue has shot up from the level of 5 crores to about 7 crores. This has been greatly due to the improvement of revenue under 3 or 4 items namely, Excise, Customs, Taxes on Income and also to some extent Forest. The Excise revenue, for instance, has gone up from Rs. 73.31 lakhs in 1119 and it is expected to rise to Rs. 131.89 lakhs in 1121. If we scrutinise the estimates still further, it will be found that under 'Excise' abkari plays a very prominent part. The revenue under abkari which stood at 41 lakhs in 1119 is expected to rise to 80 lakhs. This has been occasioned by the increased purchasing power of the labouring classes and the increased purchasing power has brought about an increased consumption of arrack and toddy. This situation cannot certainly be regarded with any great complacency, but at the same time, Sir, I think the present situation provides an opportunity for the Government to deal with the situation in a manner which will at once advance the abkari policy of Government and at the same time safeguard the revenues of Government. The situation is such that the Government can safely introduce one essential step which will be in consonance with the policy of the Government. As an integral part of their policy Government always intervene in the matter of the regulation of the quality and quantity of the arrack issued. I would suggest, Sir, that immediately the Government should intervene to regulate the strength of the arrack issued to the people by lowering the strength from 25° u. p. to 35° u. p. I understand that in certain areas the arrack issued is of 25° strength. If it be reduced to 35°, it will bring it to the same level as is obtaining in the adjoining territory of the British Indian Province. This is the first step which I would urge upon the Government to take immediately. This step would not in any way affect the revenue under Abkari.

Coming next to income tax, we will take the basic year as 1119. It stood at Rs. 86.85 lakhs; it is expected to rise to Rs. 120 lakhs in 1121. This certainly is a very satisfactory state of affairs as it has been brought about by improvement in our trade and commercial position.

Coming to forest revenues, Sir, our forest revenue was for a long time pitched at about 13 to 14 lakhs of rupees and during the year 1119 it reached the level of 51 lakhs. It is expected to rise to 56 lakhs in the coming year. This is indeed satisfactory so far as it goes. But I would like to remark that the forest revenue is after all a receipt in

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[Rajyasevanirata S. Chattanatha Karayalar]

the nature of capital and I would therefore, suggest that in the post-war period when there is likely to be a heavy demand for timber, Government should not, in the interests of revenue, exploit the forest resources indiscriminately. They should go slowly and exploit the timber resources to the minimum possible extent. Otherwise, we shall be frittering away our capital wealth.

Now, coming to the expenditure side of the Budget, I find that there are two or three heads which come in for very large shares. The most prominent item is the Public Works Department for which a handsome allotment of Rs. 74.69 lakhs is made for 1121. Sir, from the Budget estimates, I find that a sum of Rs. 73.42 lakhs was provided for the current year out of which a sum of only Rs. 56.83 lakhs according to the revised estimate will be spent under this Department during 1120. Sir, it is rather disappointing that as much as 17 or 18 lakhs of rupees should not have been spent during this year under one of the major Departments of the State. I would like to mention this because, you, Sir, said the other day during the course of your address at the Joint Session that the Budget figures are not meant to be merely figures on paper but that Government intend to see that the amounts allotted for the various departments, are spent. I am sure, you will see that this intention of Government is implemented during the coming year.

The next item of importance which claims our attention is the provision of Rs. 74.6 lakhs under Post-war Reconstruction schemes for the coming year.

Under this programme, one item is the provision of a sum of about Rs. 51,000 for what is called a model salt factory. I was trying to find some guidance from the Financial Secretary's speech as to what the purpose of this provision was.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Sir, the member is not audible.

PRESIDENT: He will speak up.

RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: I was referring to the provision of a sum of Rs. 51,000—for what is called a model salt factory. I was trying to find out from the Financial Secretary's speech as to what the purpose of this provision was. I could not really get any elucidation. But luckily I had occasion to discuss the matter with the Director of Research of the University. I really thought that the department of research had done magnificent work in the field of salt. I myself know definitely that the department has done excellent work in the matter of salt. They have done researches into the conditions under which pure salt can be produced and also the conditions under which other salts can be separated from brine. I have myself contributed to the research work that was being carried on in my own factory. I can testify to the fact that excellent results have been achieved from the researches carried on. So, I was wondering as to why further allotment should be made for the same work. Luckily I

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have been able to ascertain from the Director of Research that this sum is provided for research under other conditions than those under which they were making researches so far. I certainly welcome the proposal. But I would like to add that this sum of Rs. 51,000—should be devoted entirely for research and research alone and should not be diverted for any other purpose than research work. That is all what I want to say with regard to this matter.

Then the next item of expenditure provided for under the Post war Reconstruction programme is an allotment of Rs. 16 lakhs for a scheme known as the Perinchani Reservoir Scheme. The proposal is to augment the supply from the Kodayar Irrigation Scheme for the benefit of the lands in the South. This has been occasioned by the circumstance which arose during the last few years by reason of the frequent failure of crops. Sir, I welcome this proposal. At the same time, I would like to say that Government should accord similar treatment to areas which suffer under similar difficulties and similar disadvantages. For example, I would refer to the Shencottah area. It is placed in exactly the same position both as regards facilities for irrigation and assessment. I would urge upon the Government the necessity for investigating the frequent failure of crops in that area and also the possibilities of putting up at least smaller reservoirs to supplement the existing sources of irrigation.

Having made these comments on the budget estimates, I would like to touch upon some general topics. The first and most important thing which I would like to refer to, is with regard to the new land revenue policy which was adumbrated in the speech of the Financial Secretary and which was elaborated at some length by you Sir, in your address to the Joint Session. The proposal regarding land revenue policy appears at first sight to be a very revolutionary proposal. But Sir, the arguments that you advanced the other day regarding the adoption of this new policy are so convincing and irresistible that no other conclusion seems to be possible. The new policy is dictated by two sets of circumstances. One seems to lie in the difficulty and the cost involved in making a re-survey and re-settlement. After all, the result to flow from such a costly resurvey and resettlement may not be commensurate with the trouble and cost involved. The other set of circumstances consists in the inequity which is caused by the unequal incidence of land taxation. These two sets of circumstances lead only to the policy indicated by Government.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member may speak up.

RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: The basis of the new land tax seems to be to levy a basic minimum tax on land and supplement it by a graded system of taxation on the income from land. In other words, it will consist of two factors, one a constant factor and the other a variable factor. Obviously it follows that the constant factor should be kept at as low a level as possible as it must be independent of changing circumstances. At the same time having regard to the special nature of the burden imposed upon land, it is

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necessary that a ceiling level of tax should be imposed upon land. It should under no circumstances, go beyond that limit. I would in conclusion with regard to this matter say that these principles should be embodied in a statute.

I now come to another topic *viz.*, the industrialisation programme of the Government. Government have adopted a deliberate policy of industrialisation of the State. And, as a result of such a policy there have been established a number of big industries and more big industries have been projected. I will refer, for instance, to the key industry of the Fertilisers which will begin to function in about a year. Then there is the rayon factory which has been projected and it will come into being in a few years. There is the silk factory which has been projected and the Aluminium factory. Sir, all these big industries go a great way towards industrialising the country. But, Sir, that is not all. In order really to industrialize the country, what is wanted is not the establishment of a few big industries in one or two local areas, but we want a very large number of medium sized industries established throughout the country. That and that alone will enable us to achieve an industrial economy in the country. What is the object of achieving industrial economy? It is only to secure to the people a reasonable standard of living. To achieve this, it is very essential that Government should take steps to encourage the establishment of a very large number of medium sized industries throughout the country. Therefore, it is necessary for the Government to adopt a policy which will be designed to encourage the establishment and growth of medium sized industries. As a first essential, it is necessary that a sense of security should be created in the minds of the would be investors in companies. I am making this suggestion with special reference to the facilities that can possibly be given by Government to encourage medium sized industries. One such facility would lie in the way in which Government would treat the companies in the matter of securing land for establishing industries. It is very well known that it is very difficult to get suitable lands for ordinary companies. It is only Government that can acquire for them lands from other parties or assign their own lands to the companies. The policy of Government seems to be to acquire lands for companies and to lease them out. I would suggest that in the matter of leasing out the lands for the companies they should not impose unduly restrictive conditions on these companies. Unduly restrictive conditions introduced in the lease would only retard the industrialisation of the country and the would be investors would be scared away from investing in shares of companies. It is well known that capital in this country is notoriously shy and therefore Government should adopt a very liberal policy in the matter of leasing out lands.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Will the honourable member give an example of such unduly restrictive conditions being imposed on companies?

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RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: Sir, I understand that in the matter of leasing lands to the companies Government seem to insist on putting a condition to the effect that any breach of a condition would entail forfeiture of the machinery and the building. That is the point which I had in my mind when I referred to restrictive terms. That is the point which I want to emphasise,

PRESIDENT: I want to make that matter clear, because that statement should not go uncontradicted. Things like machinery which are removable in nature cannot be regarded as a fixture under any lease agreement and so cannot be the subject of any condition as to forfeiture. So, the honourable member may take it definitely from me that there could not have been a condition of the forfeiture of the machinery for breach of the condition of the lease deed, because a lease is only of land and things permanently fixed to the land and appurtenant to that land. In any case, I do not remember having been responsible for any lease wherein the forfeiture of machinery was contemplated.

RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: I was referring to an instance which came to my notice which I shall certainly place before you later.

Another important topic which I would like to refer to is the question of fragmentation of agricultural holdings. Fragmentation of agricultural holding has been going on indiscriminately so much so that it has become a very serious problem. Government have been attempting to deal with this problem and attempts have been made by other bodies to tackle this problem. One solution has been to deal with the problem by amending the existing social laws.

Sir, I am definitely of the opinion that this is a very serious problem which cannot be dealt with in that fashion. Any solution based upon the amendment of the existing social system can only have the effect of touching the fringe of the problem. The problem cannot be dealt with in that manner. I suggest that a new approach has got to be made. The very conception of property and property rights has got to be changed. The right of holding one acre of agricultural land is after all equivalent to holding one out of a hundred shares in a hundred acres of land. If this idea is made the basis for the future disposition of property, it can be made the medium for a solution of the problem which will deal with this difficulty of fragmentation of lands. The idea of property being held by individuals as such should be discouraged. Incorporated societies or bodies should be encouraged to acquire and hold lands. The deliberate policy of the Government should be that they must give ample facilities to societies and incorporated bodies alone so that the idea of individuals holding property may not become very popular. This is only a suggestion and it must be.....

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether it is the idea of the honourable member that private property should be abolished?

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RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: That is not at all my idea. I only stated that individuals should be enabled to have shares in incorporated companies holding lands. That is not inconsistent with the idea of private property.

MR. K. M PAUL: In that case, who will be the legal owner of the property?

RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: That is very clear: it will be the company itself.

Sir, having dealt with the question of fragmentation of holdings, I shall pass on to another topic *viz.* the system of tolls in the country.

The system of tolls is a very antiquated system of taxation. The earlier it is abolished, the better for the country. I would say that the figures given for the revenue under this item really disfigure our budget estimates. It has been abolished in British India and it is high time that we gave up this item of revenue. I do not want to give up the revenue obtained in that manner, but this revenue of Rs. 6½ lakhs can be made up by a system of taxation on motor vehicles.

As regards the Public Health activities, I have to say a few words with reference to one aspect of the matter. It is very well-known that the mosquito nuisance in Travancore has been alarmingly on the increase. It is growing more and more acute in the city of Trivandrum. Likewise, it is increasing in other centres in this State as well. In view of the huge programme which the Government are taking now under the Public Health Bill I would suggest that this matter of mosquito control be given a definite and important place, and a co-ordinated and comprehensive system of mosquito control should be taken up early in hand. There is a great possibility of fell diseases like malaria, etc., spreading throughout the State because of the lack of proper control measures. I would therefore request the Government to take up the question of mosquito control very early.

MR. J W. TOLSON (*The Travancore Planters*): Sir, the Financial Secretary laid before us a very clear statement of the finances of the State and I would like to congratulate the Government on the largest budget in the history of the State and on the very comprehensive manner in which the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme has been arranged.

With regard to Post War Reconstruction, I would like to request the Government to go into the matter very thoroughly with regard to the roads and communications in the cardamom hill area. I note that the future arrangements as regards cardamom in the State will be that the cardamom markets will be held in Travancore. Sir, when the cardamom estates were first opened up, the roads leading up to them were not opened up from the west. All communications for many years have been from the East to the West. Roads, passes, tracts, most of them led to British India and if I may recall to the House, the Western Outlet Road was only opened in 1931. I know that under the Pallivasal Hydro Electric Project, a very thorough examination has been made of the cardamom hills, and I trust that the Government will consider the question of making roads that will be

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convenient for the transport of cardamoms to the markets of Kottayam and Alwaye.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I may immediately reassure the honourable member that a necessary part and parcel of the cardamom marketing scheme being concentrated in Travancore, a very comprehensive system of roads and tracts leading into the State from the cardamom estate, is being contemplated and will be put into effect immediately.

MR. J. W. TOLSON: I thank the President for the information.

With regard to the Hill tracts, I wish to call the attention of the Government to the continual fires that rage there during the dry season. During last February, I was upon the high hills overlooking some 300 square miles of country. That country was on fire. Travancore has immense wealth in her forest and I fear.....

MR. A. K. BHASKAR (*Quilon cum Kottarakara*): May I know whether it was in the Munnar or Peermade area.

MR. J. W. TOLSON: Sir, we overlook the cardamom area.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the fire is from the registered holdings.

MR. J. W. TOLSON: Sir, if somebody throws a lighted match down.....

MR. S. KRISHNA IYER: May I know whether the fires were in the wooded area or in grass lands?

MR. J. W. TOLSON: The fire first starts in the grass lands and later on it extends to the jungles. There are various extensive areas which have been damaged by fire and that is another reason why I appeal to Government to open up that country with roads. It will also be easy to control that area and undoubtedly, it would mean a large financial gain to Government. In other countries a great deal of expenditure is incurred on the question of protection of the forest area, and I feel that it is time that the Government took measures to prevent damage to the reserve forests.

Then again, I note that Dr. Millen, has been in this State and has reported on the Veterinary Reasearch work here. In this connection, I would suggest that when the question of Veterinary hospitals is being considered, the necessary legislation be passed for the prevention of cattle diseases such as the foot and mouth disease, rinderpest and septicaemia which attack the cattle and take a very heavy toll on their lives. I feel that the only method of controlling these diseases is by legislation. I feel also that it would be necessary to legislate for the control of stud bulls. If you want the qualities of the milch cattle to be improved, it will be necessary to protect the herds and I hope that the Government will extend this scheme to further the supply of milk in this State.

Then again, I note that the Government are going to start fruit farms in high ranges. I fully agree with this scheme. I think there is a great future in these fruit farms if properly undertaken, for the people of Travancore. From my experience of growing fruit I know that with guidance and money it can be developed as an industry which will ultimately be of great benefit to the country.

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[Mr. J. W. Tolson]

Then again, I notice that the Government propose to enlarge and equip the four hospitals in Alleppey, Quilon, Kottayam and Trivandrum. I hope it will be possible for the Government to so arrange the hospitals, especially, with a view to meet the needs of such industrial areas as Alwaye. I feel that they will need in the future a well equipped and supervised hospital for the people who are working in the industrial areas of the State,

I am much pleased to see that Rs. 7 lakhs is being spent on compulsory education and I trust that along with compulsory education, the Government will introduce a system of compulsory medical inspection, especially of the teeth and eyes. I feel that in the students you have the future generation, a generation which will have the interests of Travancore and a generation which if healthy, will more than repay any expenditure that may be incurred over such a scheme as compulsory medical inspection.

Then, Sir, on behalf of the Planters of Travancore, I have to thank the Government and express my appreciation for the manner in which the food-stuffs have been supplied and the regularity with which those supplies have been issued. In regard to this subject, there is one suggestion which I should like to make and it is about storage. Certainly the quality of grain supplied has greatly improved but there is still room for improvement and I feel that if there was a better manner of storage, the quality of the grains would be better. I shall put it this way. If the consignment that went into the buildings first be so arranged that that consignment be issued first, then the deterioration of the grains would be very greatly reduced. It is undoubtedly on account of the steps that had to be taken to get grains into the State that the derangement in storage has occurred. Probably, therefore, it was impossible to take out first the consignment which was put into the building first, and hence the deterioration. I think it would be possible to make an improvement on this matter by arranging the issue of grain in such a way that old stock was always moving out.

SRIMATI T. NARAYANI AMMA (*Nominated*): No one who has carefully studied the budget presented by the learned Financial Secretary and the memorandum accompanying it and has listened with interest and attention to the well-worded speech made by him in introducing it can fail to feel greatly gratified at the soundness of the financial position disclosed by the budget and at the all-round progress that is being made by the State. I beg to add my quota of hearty appreciation for the care and ability with which the budget has been prepared and for the lucidity and thoroughness with which the explanations and elucidations have been offered whenever they are found necessary. The present budget marks if I may say so, a further step in the new order of things so far as the presentation of the budget is concerned, and we are exceedingly thankful, Sir, for the manner in which the

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whole financial position is explained to us. The present budget marks a new era in another respect also. We are glad to learn that for the first time in the annals of the State, the revenue for the year 1120 is expected to amount to Rs. 607·12 lakhs, an amount which it is exceedingly gratifying to find, is exceeded only by the revenues of Mysore and Hyderabad among the Indian States. We are also glad that the revenue for the next year is estimated to stand at even a higher level the figure being Rs. 623·65 lakhs. It is no doubt true, that the figures will be lower under conditions following the cessation of final hostilities and the restoration of normal conditions. But due consideration, we find, has been paid to such an eventuality.

The Financial Secretary has pertinently pointed out that the present budget is a budget designed for the future generations including as its main features a programme of Post War Reconstruction spreading over many years to come. In this respect also the budget is noteworthy.

While thus the budget has been prepared with reference to a definite programme of Post War Reconstruction, the normal demands of the various nation-building departments have, by no means, been neglected. Indeed, in the words of the Financial Secretary, the programme of expenditure has been viewed from two distinct angles of vision—the one dealing with the normal activities of the various nation building departments of the administrative machinery and the other dealing with the post war activities with special reference to the social and economic bearings on the future of the country. We are very glad to learn also, Sir, that in view of the considerable influence which the work of the various departments of Government such as the Public Works, Agriculture, Industries, Education and Medical, has on the immediate and the future well—being of the country, these departments have been given the precedence in the matter of the normal activities of Government. That ample provision has been made for the ordinary expenditure for running the administrative machinery is evident from the fact that the total of such expenditure is Rs. 500 lakhs, leaving a gratifying revenue surplus of about Rs. 124 lakhs out of which we are glad to learn a substantial sum of Rs. 75 lakhs is earmarked for a programme of post-war expenditure for the next year.

The details regarding the various works included in the post war programme for the next year offer instructive reading, and it is seen that each of the items is important in its own way. Special mention has, however, to be made of the proposed introduction of compulsory primary education in two urban areas and one rural area. This reform will undoubtedly mark the beginning of a notable epoch in the history of education in the State and its progress will be watched with interest by all patriotic Travancoreans.

Equally important is the programme announced regarding the further improvement of medical aid in the State, including the re-organisation of the medical institutions and the opening of the hospital

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[Srimati T. Narayani Amma.]

on up-to-date scale exclusively for children in memory of a dearly loved Prince—His Highness Prince Avittam Tirunal. Equally commendable is the provision made in the public health budget for the prevention of epidemics and for the anti-malarial campaigns on an intensive scale. Sir, on this question of medical aid and public health, the only suggestion that I wish to make is that in the practical working of the schemes connected therewith, adequate attention should be paid to the extension of the rural medical aid and rural sanitation. I am, far from disparaging in any manner the activities of the various departments concerned in these directions. All that I mean to say is that consistently with the many-sided advancement that Travancore is making and in the light of the conditions that are obtaining in some of the outlaying parts of the State, increased attention should be paid to these questions.

Coming to Agriculture and the allied activities, one is very glad to find that a provision of Rs. 17 08 lakhs has been made in the Post War budget for the improvement of irrigation facilities. Then, Sir, it is a matter for special gratification that though the normal expenditure of the State is expected to mount up to Rs. 500 lakhs, the Government do not propose to resort to any new taxation or to enhance the rates of the existing taxes. We are glad to find that the system of assessment of land tax is going to have a change with a view to the equalisation of the burden of taxation on a more equitable basis and I trust it will be welcomed by all the people.

We are grateful to you, Sir, for the gracious and statesmanlike manner in which you have taken us into the confidence of the Government in these and other various schemes, through the very lucid and inspiring statement made by you at the joint sitting of the two Houses. In conclusion, I wish only to say that in the words of the Financial Secretary "we are glad that the financial position of the State is sound and will continue to be so even when our revenues suffer the recoil inevitable when the prices fall and the war boom ceases."

MR. M. R. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil* cum *Nedumangad*): Sir, in making certain observations on the budget, I wish to preface them with a sentiment of genuine pleasure, a pleasure generated by the responsible statement of the Financial Secretary on the floor of this House that no additional taxation of any kind is contemplated during the financial year. The Financial Secretary has also stated that but for your kind guidance and directions, the task of budgeting, especially in these times of uncertainties and fluctuating conditions, would have been impossible of performance. May I, therefore, congratulate the Government on their success in budgeting for a revenue of Rs. 6¼ crores without any enhanced taxation? This is a peak figure, but I am sure higher peaks will rise in the years to come—peaks thrown up by the application of a sound financial policy. I am not unaware of the phenomenal rise in our revenue being on account of the war condition due to the increased price of products in the markets of the world. Our cocoanuts, our coir, our cashewnut, our timber, our tea and our rubber—all these have been responsible, or

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rather have been indispensble in the successful termination of the war. Money has been flowing into the country and may continue to flow in, but inflation must sooner or later cease and deflation may set in, may appear like a thief in the night.

It may perhaps be asked of me how I am optimistic in regard to an increase in revenue in future years, in view of the fear of possible deflation. My answer is that when the industrial, commercial and agricultural schemes on which the Government have set their hands, are to be implemented, as I am sure they will be, the earning capacity of the average citizen must necessarily improve and the taxable margin will rise in proportion thereto. Permit me therefore, Sir, to administer a corrective to the Financial Secretary "that we have to prepare ourselves for a rainy day". Of course "rain is a prominent word in the meterological dictionary but I may submit, Sir, that in the financial vocabulary of Travancore, it would not find a place. Therefore, I refuse to be frightened by the pessimistic forebodings of that character. I wish, Sir, you will inspire the Financial Secretary with your faith and courage and ask him to gird up his loins for a successful fight.

As regards the items of revenue, I believe there are a few things which must bring larger collections. I do not want to blame former administrations, but this much I must say, *viz.*, that our ignorance of actual conditions and want of vigilance have caused great loss to the State, both in resources and revenue. Foreign companies had been growing fat and paying large dividends for the export of monazite and ilmenite at normal rates of seigniorage. The requisitions made by those companies were frequently regarded as mandatory directions with a result that the exporters gorged themselves into those minerals and came to regard us as innocent spectators of a steady game of profiteering. It is gratifying to see that you are devising means to prevent that kind of exploitation. There is the likelihood of a very good revenue in future from that direction too.

I fully agree with the Deputy President in what he spoke about the Forest Department. I also wish to observe that if the Forest Department can be pursuaded to do their work systematically and well, the collections will rise to a good figure. The Conservator of Forests may come forward with his boom figures and I am not unaware of that.

The present condition is because of the drive to extract timber for war purposes, something of the nature of an extraordinary effort. There is no virtue in feeling complacent over the huge revenues thus realised.

PRESIDENT : I do not want to interrupt Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai. But I may say that on the whole we have not really given a large proportion of our timber for war purposes and indeed if private needs could be catered for after the war, it will really yield us a much bigger revenue than anything we have got from war contracts.

MR. M. R. RAMAKRISENA PILLAI : Thank you, Sir. I stand corrected. Of course, we have trees which have been growing in our evergreen forests blessed with a fertile soil and abundant rainfall, and of course there is nothing very much to boast of, in felling them and

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[Mr. M. R. Ramakrishna Pillai.]

getting a good revenue. But what I should like to impress is that we must have a system of well-planned conservation and planting trees in depleted or fresh areas and felling them in a scientific manner. I know, Sir, that large and valuable trees deteriorate and die out in the interior forests as they are not felled in time and taken to the market. The interior forests are closed to our knowledge and it behoves the Government to exercise a special vigilance in turning the search-light and discovering the actual conditions. If that is done, we shall be able to secure a fairly good recurring revenue from the forests in normal times.

There is another department about which I should like to say a few words. That is the Transport Department. The inauguration of that department was not quite appreciated by the people at the time of its inception as it was regarded as an unnecessary intrusion into the field of private enterprise. But the wisdom of the measure soon became obvious. The difficulty now is not that there are not sufficient number of passengers but that there are not sufficient rolling stock. It is a commercial service. We should therefore be able to obtain a fair return for the money invested. The Financial Secretary is apologetic about the decrease of 2·5 lakhs in the net receipts of the department. I am unable to understand the Financial Secretary when he says that the fall is not to be taken as an indication of any apprehension on the part of the Government in regard to the extent of actual receipts. That apart, Sir, I think that greater efficiency in the management of the department is bound to bring a larger income. Often we are faced with the spectacle of buses stopping in the middle of a trip and the unfortunate passengers thrown about helter-skelter, a few of them being able to be transhipped and others being subject to excessive heat or rain on the roads. Very often it is a case of shortage of petrol, which could be avoided if sufficient care was taken. Oftener still, it may be due to the breakdown of the engine. I understand that the number of competent engineers attached to the department is very small. Their small pay is an insult to their efficiency. There is no good in one or two higher officers alone being paid good salaries and the rest of the department starved. We want engineering skill to be properly distributed and rewarded with adequate salary. If this is done, breakdowns will decrease. Ere long, we expect more chassis, as I was told, and then the transport problem might be solved. I trust, Sir, that we shall be able to hear a different story during the next budget session.

I now proceed to the proposal of the levy of income-tax in lieu of land tax, a proposal which is as bold as it is new. The land tax is a stable source of income throughout India. If it is once abolished it is difficult to reimpose it for this reason among others that the land records will naturally be negelected in the interval. Sudden changes from one system to another will be inconvenient and also impolitic. There is no denying the fact that under the present system of taxation, the proportion of incidence falls heavily on the small tax-payer. The rules of assessment, know no new progressive rates in the assessment of

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larger incomes. This means that taxation of land is not in accordance with the "capacity" of the tax-payer which is one of the accepted canons of taxation. The ryot may have no food, no clothing for himself and his family; yet he must pay land tax. The principle of income-tax if applied will be a great relief to the small holders suffering in the depths of destitution.

On going through some of the former proceedings of the old Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council, I have found that some of the experienced members of the former Assemblies and Councils have brought this question forward, but the Government was not prepared to shoulder the responsibility until now to effect a change. I need hardly say, Sir, that the success of any scheme will depend upon the sense of fairness of the officers of the departments concerned. There will be a tendency on the part of the subordinate officials to show good work, and good work means exacting more money from the tax-payers. Account books are normally the basis on which the assessment of income tax is calculated. Ours being a country of small holders the cultivators keep no accounts of the expenditure. Most of them are ignorant and are unable to make correct entries in the accounts. The basis of assessment will, therefore, be all guess work. The burrowings of the income-tax officers have, therefore, to be vigilantly guarded. The fear of the law is therefore the only guarantee for an equitable application of the rules. I feel sure, Sir, that you will be able to correct vagaries and punish the delinquents and I hope that in making these rules, Government will be able to provide for their just administration in the interests of poor cultivators. This is a matter on which the Government should exercise great care and vigilance.

The Financial Secretary's speech has given prominence to Post-war Reconstruction programme. But the reconstruction should be such as will be most advantageous to the rural population. The towns are even now better off. I am not against any proposal for beautifying the towns and adding more to their amenities, particularly the city of Trivandrum. Controlled water supply and electricity have made Trivandrum and other towns healthier and more beautiful. Trivandrum is a place of ups and downs, hills and valleys. The lay of the town has its own advantages for drainage. I say this because of the proposals which one often hears about the reclamation schemes of the Tampanoor and the Vanchiyoor valleys. Of course these reclamation programmes could probably be avoided if the owners are asked to improve their lands within a prescribed time and if they.....

PRESIDENT: Order, order. These schemes are mainly conditioned upon activities of the Corporation and their programme. Government have merely stated that if the Corporation would take up definite reclamation schemes they would not be behind hand in financing those schemes.

Mr. M. R. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, my point is that these schemes having been announced and nothing having been done for the past ten years, the owners of these properties.....

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PRESIDENT: Without making any reproach, I may say that the delay is not entirely the fault of the Government; it is the Corporation's more or less.

MR. M. R. RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI: If an authoritative announcement one way or the other is made and the people are told what the programme is, they will be able to look after their gardens and properties without allowing them to deteriorate as at present.

In conclusion, I would congratulate the Government on the excellent schemes set forth in the Financial Secretary's statement and propounded by you, Sir, in your speech. The country feels sure that they will soon be implemented, under your fostering care, and guidance for the benefit of the people and the prosperity of the country.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Sir, at the last budget meeting I remember Mr. Ramakrishna Pillai paying a well-turned compliment to the Financial Secretary, that even ten or fifteen years ago, Mr. Narayana Aiyar was known as Budget Narayana Aiyar. If that was his title fifteen years ago, how much should he not have advanced in the line now? His present achievement should be regarded as a crowning glory.

But above and beyond all that, we have had from you, Sir, a brilliant exposition of the budget, the principles and policy of the Government, the achievements of Government, its post-war schemes and the problems of the future. That speech has inspired us and heartened us considerably.

All of us have been priding ourselves on the fact that, we have risen to third rank among the Indian States in point of revenue. There are other heights to which we have risen. We are, for example, ahead in point of revenue, of three British Indian provinces, the North West Frontier Province, Orissa and Assam. If we compare our revenues area to area with any Province or State in India, we shall stand at the top. Our revenue will work at something near 9,000 Rs. per square mile.

In the matter of post-war reserves, I observe that all the provinces of British India together have been able to lay by only 60 crores of rupees while Travancore by itself, with such a small area has been able to lay by over Rs. 4 crores. That is another feather in our cap. In point of density of population, we stand at or near the top. In point of education again, we are at the top. This is the only State in India which has been able to efface agricultural indebtedness. In point, again, of several items of produce we are fairly at the top. For coir, and coir fabrics we have a world monopoly; for rubber, a monopoly in India; for cardamoms, a sort of monopoly in India. In respect also, of wealth earned out of the war, we are second to none. Now, these are matters on which we could congratulate ourselves quite as much as having attained to third rank among the Indian States in point of revenue.

Leaving all that, I have been considering our industrial situation. You have listed our achievements and potentialities and what can be done in the future. After hearing you, I feel an added inch to my stature as a Travancorean.

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I have had frequent occasion to travel througout India. Often I have found myself arguing with friends outside about the position of Travancore and its policy of industrialisation. I now feel that we can stand shoulder to shoulder with any Province or State in India and sometimes even give a lead. In the matter of procurement of rice and rationing, in the matter of the manufacture of chemicals and fertilisers, we have given a lead to the rest of India.

During my conversations with friends in and out of Travancore on the question of the industrialisation, I have heard different views. They ask me because an industry is located in Travancore, can you call it a Travancore industry? One friend said, 'The Firestones have started their tyre industry in Bombay and Dunlop in Calcutta. Can we call them Indian industries?' He next put me another question. Supposing the share capital is subscribed in part or in the main by Indians, would that make it an Indian concern? He added 'Here is the Imperial Bank of India. Most of the share-holders are Indians, but who are at the top? Who are on the board of Directors? The whole control of the bank is in the hands of foreigner. It is only in the lower ranks that we find a few Indians. We do not find an Indian drawing more than say Rs. 1500 in the service of the Bank. And the Imperial Bank of India is operating only in India.' These very important questions arise out of the present controversy between British business and Indian. In my view, it does not matter whether the work is financed by a British Indian or a Travancorean. Here is the Aluminium company. It does not touch any of the assets of Travancore. Power has been given to the company at a cheap rate. But against that, the company gives a lot of work to Travancoreans, it pays us income-tax, super-tax and excess profits tax and possibly within a few years put us in a position to draw more and more revenue out of it.

While on this subject, I may state that there was some sort of rivalry between the Mysore Government and the Travancore Government.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I request the honourable member to speak a little louder?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: While on the subject of the Aluminium Company, without disclosing any State secrets, I may say that there was a sort of rivalry between the Mysore and the Travancore Governments, both of which the Aluminium Company had approached. Travancore is said to have under-bid, and the Company located its factory in Travancore and we must congratulate ourselves on that point.

Other industries in the State are generally employing what may be called the wasting assets of Travancore. Here is, for instance, the paper industry and the proposed rayon industry. They are going to use grass, ettas and bamboos. These materials are what may be called economically wasting materials. If you do not utilise them this year, they will only rot next year and so go to waste. Even otherwise, Travancore is a part of India and many a Travancorean has started business and industries outside Travancore. I hope there is no Pakistanite here. Looked at from any point of view, the benefits from these industries come to Travancore.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know from the honourable member how the Aluminium Company

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MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I have already said that employment has been found for quite a lot of our unemployed—I may say, the super-abundant unemployed in Travancore. Travancore has got a lot of man power but it is unable to use all of them. Moreover the Aluminium Company pays income-tax, and super-tax and excess profit tax and possibly will pay us more and more. I feel that if we are to start another industry. ...

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Does the member suggest that it has set an example to other industries?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Yes. Here is an illustration of what a foreign company can do for the State.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I think honourable members might know that any aluminium company in Asia will have to obtain bauxite which formerly used to come from France and the Balkans, but now comes entirely from South and North America. The bauxite *i. e.*, the raw material for the aluminium industry is imported from America by the Canadian company and from this bauxite which is imported from outside India, they make aluminium ingots at Alwaye from which aluminium articles are manufactured today for purposes of the war, tomorrow for purposes of peace. That company could have established itself anywhere in India. As a matter of fact, it has established one of its branches near Calcutta, and the other branch could have been anywhere in India, but it has chosen to do its work in Travancore. That company pays income-tax, super tax and excess profits tax to the Travancore Government. In pursuance of this Government's desire, the company associated this Government in the share holding of the company and the Government have taken Rs. 15 lakhs worth of shares in it. I might also add that about 75 per cent. of the shares of the company are held by Indians. These shares were open to Travancoreans but very few in Travancore have taken advantage of the offer. At present Government hope to be able to take more shares. The business of the company is essentially American, doing work upon material obtained from America, but using the man-power from Travancore and employing about 50 to 63 per cent. of Travancoreans.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Some questions were put to me about the Fertilisers and Chemicals company about 51 per cent. of whose shares is held by the Travancore Government, but which is controlled by non-Travancoreans.....

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Does the member suggest that we must encourage foreign capital in the State?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Whenever necessary and whenever we find that we have not, capital enough we must encourage foreign capital.....

PRESIDENT: In order that the matter may be made perfectly clear, I may state that the industries that Government are contemplating are not small industries in regard to which local people can raise capital. The Fertilisers Industry at present involves about Rs. 2 crores and will easily involve another three or four crores. The rayon industry involves another two crores of rupees. The Tyre Manufacturing

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Company will involve about five or ten crores of rupees. The whole question is whether we are to start these industries now with foreign capital or wait for a period when Travancoreans can raise this 10 crores of rupees. This Government have decided that these industries should be started now with any help, financial or otherwise that comes from outside, full opportunity being given to local people to subscribe for them. I am glad to say that in the case of the Fertilisers company, all the shares that the Travancoreans have applied for, have been sanctioned. But out of about two crores worth of shares, they have taken only shares to the value of Rs. 15 lakhs.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know the plight of Mexico, China and of India but for the war?

PRESIDENT: Mr. Krishna Aiyar will proceed.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: In regard to the Fertilisers and Chemicals the one objection raised was that the managing agency is non-Travancorean and had certain rights. It is a fact that the majority of shareholders are Travancoreans. But the questioner should bear in mind the fact that we had not or have not any materials to make phosphates or ammonium sulphates, out of, and that all these have to come from outside Travancore. And this agency, was the one agency which had secured control of these articles from outside Travancore. That was one of the reasons why the Government went in for this particular agency. I might also say in this connection, that in the case of the Fertilisers, but for the fact that this Government intervened at the psychological moment and secured dollar exchange and the necessary priorities, the Company would not have been able to start the industry.

Passing from that theme, I come to a subject that seems to loom large in the eyes of Travancore, I mean the change in the land revenue system. I find in the course of the budget speech of Mr. Narayana Aiyar a paragraph which is quite wordy but from which I could not make out much. I refer to paragraph 8 at page 7. But from your speech, Sir, I understood that the idea was that every landholder or pattadar in the State was bound to pay only 4 cash per cent. of land held by him. And in respect of those who are making large agricultural incomes, they have to pay an agricultural income-tax in addition. At present only people who are getting over Rs. 5,000 by way of income need pay the agricultural income-tax. From your speech I gather further that your idea is to bring that down to Rs. 2,000 or 3,000. I take it that a pattadar with an income of less than Rs. 2,000 need pay nothing more than 4 cash per cent. There is also reference in that page to.....

PRESIDENT: There is no doubt about that. The intention of Government is that every one should pay, on an acreage basis, a certain basic tax, which is fixed, more or less, on the scale indicated in the honourable member's speech. No person will pay more than that basic tax unless and until his income comes up to a figure that will be fixed, say two or two thousand five hundred rupees. All those getting an income below that figure will pay only the basic tax.

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MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: In which case, I take it that there is no question of a frequent revision of taxes to be paid except in the case of the agricultural income-tax?

PRESIDENT: As a matter of fact, in regard to this basic tax, there seems to be some misconception and newspapers seem to have shared that misconception. This basic tax is based on an acreage basis. There is no opportunity for petty revenue officials visiting citizens and asking them to pay up money. If a person holds so many acres of land, he pays so much. That is all. So far as the people with lower incomes are concerned, they will not be subject to any visitations from the revenue officials. But apart from that, in regard to the agricultural income tax, they will be subject to visitations from the officials just as they are now subject to in other instances. In other words, there will be no variation in regard to the basic tax, below a certain income. But there might still be victimisation and persecution in regard to agricultural income tax.

The House rose for lunch at 2 P. M.

The Assembly met again after lunch at 3 P. M.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Sir, there is one sentence in the Budget Speech that has been baffling me. "The basic principle of the proposed new system is to have an annual assessment renewed from year to year and a basic tax fixed as in the case of the income tax and so forth.....".

I thought from that sentence that the basic tax was also subjected to annual review. Now that I gather from you that we have only to pay the basic tax and agricultural income tax, I feel considerably relieved. But however as the principle on which taxation is proposed is the equalisation of the burden of taxation on a more equitable basis, I trust that .....

PRESIDENT: The honourable member's idea apparently originated in the use of the word 'basic' in that sentence. Basic tax is not what is referred to in that sentence. The basic principle of the proposed new system is to have the actual assessment reviewed from year to year based on the fixed standard rate as in the case of the income tax. Basic rate is one thing and basic tax is another thing. Over and above this, there is the income tax incidence which will be varying from year to year. That depends on the budgetary requirements of the time.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: But since the whole paragraph is devoted to that matter and as I found it difficult to follow it, I thought some clearer definition was needed. I trust, Sir, that the principle of the equalisation of the burden will be extended to all tenures in Travancore. In the first instance, I refer to the Jenmi Kudiyan Act. It does not stand in the way of extension of the principle at all, because the land revenue is fixed. The additional revenue due to the Jenmi, *i. e.*, the rent due to the Jenmi arises from a sort of contractual obligation which the Government have undertaken to realise for him. That is only a matter of accounting. As regards Kandukrishy, the pattadar pays a heavier tax than the ordinary pandarapattom tenant.

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That entails therefore greater need for relief than the pandarapattom tenant. Next we come to the more difficult question of the Edavagais. You have taken upon yourself, Sir, to assess the Edavagai pattadars to agricultural income tax. You are, therefore, entitled or bound to relieve their part of the taxation as well. The Edavagai should not be regarded as separate. When an amendment to the present income tax law came for examination, the position of the Edavagais was argued at great length by me and the result was the eventual dropping of the bill. When we accepted the principle.....

PRESIDENT: I would request the honourable member to elucidate that point a little further, because it is giving us a lot of trouble.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: On that occasion I said, that these Edavagais were carved out by the Sovereign and the assessment or tax was made over or given to the free-holder. That was a grant to the Edavagai holder for the purpose of collection. It is the Sovereign's right to assess properties to tax. It is the the Sovereign's right to give the tax to anybody at his pleasure. It is thus a grant by the Sovereign. Therefore, it stands on the same footing; it is immaterial whether the Sovereign collects the tax himself or collects it through an agency. On principle it does not make any difference whatever. Every liability must be attended with corresponding rights or responsibilities. You, Sir, have taken it upon yourself to assess the Edavagai pattadar to agricultural income tax. He is therefore entitled to relief as much as the pandarapattom pattadar. The difficulty may be about the revenue due to the Edavagai. A grant may be made from the agricultural income tax to compensate the free-hold Jenmy, *i. e.*, the holder of Edavagais. It is only when some such thing is done that there will be simplicity, uniformity, fairness and equity. I do not think that any difficulties could stand in your way; you have never been daunted by difficulties and if any difficulties cross your path, whether embodied or otherwise, the difficulties will have to take care of themselves. I therefore, take it, Sir, that you will extend this principle logically to the Edavagai as well and relieve the burden of the Edavagai Pattadars as well.

I pass on then to the question of post-war planning. Almost every State in India, every Province, and the Central Government are on the subject of planning. The Indian States are vying with each other as to who should have the better system of planning or who should spend more on it. We in Travancore are content with a provision of 10 crores of rupees for post-war reconstruction. In Hyderabad their present plan for a period of 15 years is to spend 232 crores. In Mysore, there is an allotment of 35 crores for the coming year. In Baroda it is a case of 10 crores. In Bombay, it is 50 crores for the time being. But many Indian Provinces not having any initiative, themselves, have been unable to make any plans whatever. In Hyderabad, as I said, as part of the 232 crores plan, they have a proposal to spend for the construction of a dam across the Godavary, a sum of 24 crores, and irrigate about 8,00,000 acres of land. The

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same scheme is to provide electricity to the extent of 75 thousand k. w. The scheme is also to build an industrial town on the banks of the Godavary comparable with the towns in America under the T. V. A. scheme. That is one of the grandest schemes in India and if we are to look to our laurels we have to take up our Post-War Reconstruction Schemes as soon as possible.

I find from the Budget estimate presented to us, that there are several items proposed to be taken up early. I would draw the attention of the House to a few items out of these. I would refer in the first instance to the scheme for the development of fisheries for which 2 lakhs have been allotted. Our fisheries have been neglected for ever so many years and I have been referring to its development at every budget session of the House. Now that the views of Government have come into line with us, I would emphasise that the amount be spent in the field itself, *i. e.*, towards fish culture in our rivers, canals, lagoons, ponds and inland waters. That will solve the problem of starvation in Travancore. I believe this suggestion will be taken up in earnest by the Director of Fisheries.

Next, referring to canal improvement this matter is of fundamental importance to the country. It was taken up by me as early as 1081 in the then Assembly during Dewan Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao's time. The matter of dredging up the inland water ways of Travancore was discussed at length then and apart from the usual replies of 'noted' nothing was done: Sir, since you took it up recently, I trust that something will be done.

Then there is coastal navigation. We have to congratulate ourselves that this subject has been taken up at least now. There are certain matters in which we cannot equal other Indian States or Provinces. But in the matter of fisheries and coastal navigation, possibilities of development in our State are beyond theirs. We have a long sea board which few States have. If we take this up in earnest, we shall go ahead and beyond them as they are going beyond us in certain other respects.

PRESIDENT: The honourable members must realise that coastal navigation is all right. But every country which is benefited by coastal navigation has had reservation of coastal navigation to its own nationals. That is, no English vessel or no American vessel can conduct coastal navigation in Australia. Similarly, in Canada. Unless the Government of India will reserve Indian coastal navigation to the nationals of India, by national I mean 'ships' the question of coastal navigation as a really successful venture will be rather difficult. It is therefore that this Government having started partnership with the existing coastal navigation concerned is pressing very hard upon the Government of India to convince the possibility with regard to coastal navigation to be confined to Indian nationals.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I remember this question being taken up in council by the late Justice Sir C. V. Kumaraswamy Sastri 25 or 30

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years ago. Reservation of coastal navigation to nationals is an essential and we hope when in the course of a few years, say two to three years from now, when India comes by its own, there will not be any difficulty whatever on this problem of coastal navigation.

I would refer also, Sir, to the allotment for mulberry cultivation. This is a subject about which I can say from my experience that mulberry grows in all elevations anywhere in Travancore. In 1086 when I went to Bangalore to see a mulberry plantation for the first time, about 4 acres had been taken up for cultivation by the Tatas. Mysore had no mulberry and no silk worm culture worth the name in those days. This area was abandoned for a time. It was later handed over to the Salvation Army and the cultivation was brought to an efficient stage in Mysore. Within the past 35 years, Mysore has become one of the centres of silk cultivation and at present it is next only to Kashmir in silk industry. There are quite a lot of very useful, commendable, and remunerative schemes which Travancore can take up and forge ahead compared to the other parts of India. They may be taken up in the order of importance at opportune times. On the whole, we have to congratulate ourselves on our potentialities and vast possibilities.

Sir, in the matter of planning again, the first place has to be given to agriculture. About two years back, our Agricultural Department was starving on an allotment of about 1,80,000 rupees. It is only now that we get about 4 lakhs. That is absolutely nothing to the needs of the development of Agriculture. Agriculture embraces within itself many sciences; there is soil chemistry, soil physics, biology, pathology, agricultural engineering and a lot of other subjects included in it. I do not think any Kottarakara trained Officer or Poona trained Officer can cope with the science as at present developed. I suggest therefore that the subject of agriculture may be given new life and a scheme drawn up for its development on up-to-date lines. We are prepared as far as it lies in our power to co-operate. Sir, the Agricultural Reconstruction Committee after two or three sittings came to an abrupt end. The Mysore Government is allotting about 10 crores of rupees and first place has been assigned to the development of agriculture. We have to follow their example.

I have to touch on one or two other subjects more and I have done. While at the question of agriculture, questions like those of labour and capital, wages and prices come up for consideration. The social aspect has been discussed by the Fraud Committee in India and the conclusions arrived at may be summed up in the following two or three sentences.

(i) Minimum wages for agriculture,

(ii) Maintenance of agricultural prices compared to cost of living of the the agriculturists, and

(iii) National relief to tide over crop failures etc.

Every year, labour has become more and more difficult to secure and maintain. The next Punja cultivation might suffer, if no steps be taken by Government. I would suggest that some machinery be set

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up for the purpose of fixing agricultural wages. I do not wish that it should be this figure or that. But when once fixed, employers or employees or agitators should not be allowed to meddle. There are a lot of busy bodies going round the country to create trouble. To prevent that, some limit should be fixed.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, I have indeed very great pleasure to congratulate the Government and the Financial Secretary on the lucidity and thoroughness of the budget for the next year which, as the Financial Secretary has correctly characterised, is designed not only for the next year but also for the future generation. Sir, a careful perusal of the budget estimates together with the elucidation of the same contained in the Budget Memorandum that has been presented to us will, I am sure, convince every right thinking citizen of this country that they are specially calculated to secure the permanent advancement and regeneration of the country in different directions.

I will be failing in the discharge of my duties as a member of the Legislature if I do not avail myself of this opportunity to respectfully place on record the sincere feelings of profound gratitude of the people of this country for your unceasing and meritorious efforts to save the country from the disastrous results of the present war and also to bring Travancore to the forefront among the Indian States. Judging from the present cash balance of Rs. 267 lakhs besides Rs. 198 lakhs in gilt-edged security and Rs. 41 lakhs in short term deposits with banks and also from the fact that our public debt of Rs. 479 lakhs is less than even the outlay on our productive work, I have no hesitation whatsoever in accepting the convincing and legitimate assurance given by the Financial Secretary that the financial position of the State is extremely sound and satisfactory. It is a matter for sincere gratification to note that without resorting to any new taxation or enhancing the rates of the existing taxes for the purpose of augmenting our resources our revenues have reached the peak point beyond Rs. 6 crores. Sir, even though in your usual modesty, you have at the joint session of the Legislature attributed this unprecedented increase in revenue to war condition, the progress of revenue as shown at page 3 of the memorandum during the period of your administration as the Dewan of Travancore, will unmistakably show that it is not solely and exclusively due to war conditions. It is a wise financial policy of Government to build up reserve funds such as revenue reserve fund, post-war reconstruction fund and so on and we are very happy to find that you have taken care to continue that policy for the next year also. In this connection I wish to point out a serious mistake that has crept in Government record. The Financial Secretary, it would appear, though involuntarily, has made an attempt to add Rs. 1 lakh also to the anticipated revenue for the next year. We have been all along told that the total revenue for the next year would be Rs. 623·65 lakhs. But Sir, at page 3 of

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the Budget Memorandum it is stated that the anticipated revenue for the next year is Rs. 624·65 lakhs. I am sorry to see such a serious mistake even in this very important document.

Having said so much about the budget in general, I wish to make a few observations regarding the administrative policy of Government. I shall first deal with the proposal for the revision of the existing land revenue system in the State. The very same question came up for discussion at the recent budget session of the Mysore Legislative Council on the 27th June 1945. Mr. Pulla Reddi the Revenue Minister there, seems to have satisfied the members with the reply that they could not, under the present conditions afford to bring about such a radical reform in the land revenue system which had been obtaining from a long time past and assured the House that a Committee of officials and non-officials would be constituted shortly for going into the whole question. Sir, Mr. Kainikkara Padmanabha Pillai who was the leader of the National Congress Party in this House of which I was also a member, had on a previous occasion moved a cut motion urging upon the attention of Government the desirability of effecting a revision in the land revenue system and earnestly pleaded for its substitution by levying tax on agricultural income. Sir, it cannot but be admitted that the present system of land revenue is, to some extent, inequitable and unscientific and that the poor man whose income from land is not above a fixed level must be relieved from the burden of taxation. Sir, it is a great thing to see that the poor land owners whose agricultural income is below a fixed level are exonerated from the liability of the present rather heavy taxation. It is therefore my considered opinion that while all registered holdings are made liable for the payment of a nominal basic tax in order to perpetuate the obligation to the sovereign the poor man should be exonerated from his liability of paying land tax and that the agricultural income over a prescribed level should be assessed to income tax. I hope that this will be a change in the right direction and that you will rightly earn the reputation of giving a lead to the other States and Provinces in this respect also, as in the case of the historic Temple Entry Proclamation and the abolition of capital sentence. Sir, the only fear of the general public is that in the matter of fixing from time to time the agricultural income of the land owners for income tax purposes they may be subjected to unnecessary hardships.

PRESIDENT: How?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: By the vagaries and irregularities of the governmental agency.

PRESIDENT: The matter has been often put to us. Supposing today the government officer has to go to every place and find out how much has been cultivated, how much is the produce, whether there has been any attack of *chazhi*, how much lie fallow and so on. All these calculations are being made even now. What will happen hereafter is the ascertainment of the net produce and the gross produce and an allowance for cultivation expenses.

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MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Now the Proverthicar need not go to any land for the purpose of fixing the agricultural income derivable from that land.

PRESIDENT: Supposing it is left barren and there is no cultivation. In that case is any remission given?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: No remission is granted under such circumstances. In South Travancore there is some statutory provision for giving remission because there it has become an obligation on the part of Government that they will supply water at certain intervals for agricultural purposes and the failure to do so and the consequent failure of crop will entitle the land owners to get the remission of tax. But so far as other parts of the country except one or two places in Shencottah are concerned the remission of taxes is made for adequate reasons by executive orders passed by Government from time to time.

PRESIDENT: For example take the case of tree tax. Is it open to the Proverthicar to go to every plot of land?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: According to the present system he need not go and assess the yield from trees.

PRESIDENT: The settlement is now over due.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: But difficulty on account of Revenue Settlement will occur only once in 30 or 40 years. It will not recur every year. The land holders will not be subjected to such a hardship every year. But the difficulties arising out of the fixation of agricultural income will be annual. I am for bringing in the proposed change—levying of income tax on agricultural income.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH (*Meenachil* cum *Thodupuzha*): രണ്ടായിരവും മൂവായിരവും നാലായിരവും രൂപാവീതം ശമ്പളമെടുക്കുന്ന കർഷകരുടെ ഒരു ലിസ്റ്റ് അയച്ചുതരണമെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടതനുസരിച്ച് പ്രവർത്തികാരന്മാർ പകുതിക്കുവെച്ചുനിർത്തിവച്ചതായ ഒരു ലിസ്റ്റാണു അയച്ചുകൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർക്കറിയാമോ?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Even though I do not fully subscribe to that view, my submission is that what else can these poor employees do? They are burdened with a thousand and one matters, like this. One fine morning they will be asked to take a census of cattle, the next morning they will be asked to take a census of looms. It is physically impossible for any revenue subordinate however conscientious or hard-working that officer may be, to do all these things properly and correctly.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: അങ്ങനെയാണെങ്കിൽ ഈ നികുതിമാറ്റുന്നതിനെപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള നടപടികൾ നടന്നതും മിക്കവാറും പ്രവർത്തികാരന്മാരെ ഏൽപ്പിച്ചതായിട്ടാകുമല്ലോ?

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MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: It is liable to be misused in that way. But proper measures have to be devised for preventing such thing being done by the Government servants who will be entrusted with the work. That is my submission.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Can the member suggest any possible measures?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Certainly I shall suggest if I am called upon to do so. But in the meantime without going to such details let me try to point out the various aspects of the question which merit careful consideration and scrutiny.

PRESIDENT: One way of dealing with the matter is something like this. Supposing in the matter of land the likely produce from land has to be ascertained. A certain amount of preliminary investigation must take place. That may be recurring, as has been stated, for 2 or 3 years until a new circumstance comes into force inviting any variation. That is a possibility. Has the honourable member considered that aspect of the matter?

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: പത്തോ ഇരുപതോ കൊല്ലത്തേയ്ക്ക് സ്ഥിരമായ സെറ്റിൽമെന്റു നടത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള പ്രയാസം കൊണ്ടല്ലയോ ഇപ്പോൾ നീ സെറ്റിൽമെന്റു വേണ്ടായെന്നവച്ചത്?

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Sir, I move that the House do adjourn to discuss a definite matter of public importance *viz.*, the failure of Government in not preparing and presenting the Audit and Appropriation Report for the years 1117, 1118 and 1119 to the Public Accounts Committee in time so as to enable the committee to submit their report to this House and have it discussed in the House.

I may preface my remarks with this, that one of the substantial beneficial provisions which this House has acquired by the reforms of 1108 was the provision for the Public Accounts Committee. It is a privilege granted to this House to go into the Audit Report of the Government from year to year and to submit a report to this House so that it might be possible to check whether the budget grants allowed by this House were spent in accordance with the wishes of this House. That is a fundamental privilege of this House. It is a statutory provision and a statutory right which this House has. Some how or other, I do not want to go into the genesis of it—it is not my province to see how it was brought about—the report was not considered by the House: nor was the Committee which was constituted for 1118 able to consider the Audit report for 1118. But the Committee constituted to consider the report of 1119 was convened and when the report for 1117 and 1118 was placed before that Committee I raised the preliminary point—I was a member of that Committee—whether that Committee could go into that report without going into the report of 1119, and whether it had any jurisdiction to go into the report for 1118. But the Chairman then assured on behalf of the Government that the report for 1119 would also be placed before the

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[Mr. P. S. Nataraja Pillai.]

Committee and that the Committee might go into the report for 1117 at first and that thereafter reports could be discussed in time later on. I repeatedly requested the Finance Department, through the Head of the administration, to submit the report for 1119 early so as to enable the Committee to discuss the report for 1119 in 1120. Some difficulty stood in their way. In this connection, I may also invite your attention to the fact that some years ago, the administration reports of the Departments of the State were available by Kumbhom every year. Now, they come by the first week of Karkatakom. The Budget session meets in Karkatakom. I used to receive them in Kumbhom formerly. Now, some how or other, I am constrained to say the Governmental machinery moves so slow--perhaps on account of multifarious duties or on account of sickness of the officers concerned, the Departmental reports come only by Karkatakom. If the Departmental reports were made available by Kumbhom, the Audit report could be prepared by the financial branch in time for consideration by the Public Accounts Committee of the year. So, in order to enable the Finance Department to prepare the Audit Report in time, the Departmental reports should be got ready earlier. I do realise that I am taking a great risk in trenching upon the time allotted for the general discussion of the Budget. But, I would suggest to the House that if the Government would assure us that in future, year after year, the reports of Audit and Appropriation will be made available for the Committee constituted for the year and the Committee's report will be made available for discussion in the House, I would like to withdraw my adjournment motion.

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR (*Financial Secretary*): Sir, the Audit and Appropriation report for 1119 will be placed before the Committee before the current year closes and it can be considered by the Legislature in this session.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. Although I regretted in the course of my remarks this morning that the period of two days allotted for the discussion of the Budget should be trenched upon by a motion the substance of which could be debated in the course of the general discussion itself, yet in one sense I am not sorry that the matter has come up in the manner of an adjournment motion drawing specific attention of the Government to an undoubted irregularity on the part of the Government. The Government regret that the Audit reports for 1117 and 1118 were placed before the Public Accounts Committee out of time. It was really in order to emphasise that regret, and because the rules gave me no alternative except purely as a matter of legalistic construction, to point out that it was not open to have a post mortem discussion, that I ruled in pursuance to what fell from Mr. T. P. Velayudhan Pillai that the motion was out of order. I am perfectly willing to give the undertaking on behalf of Government that every step will be taken in future to see that the rules are strictly adhered to and that the Public Accounts Committee is given the opportunity of

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dealing with the transaction of the year which it is bound to and entitled to deal with under the rules. As has been rightly remarked, the work of the Committee is of great and crucial importance and the details of that discussion will be of value to the Government. With that assurance, I would ask the honourable member whether he is pressing the motion.

MR. P. S. NATARAJA PILLAI: Sir, I withdraw the motion.

The motion, by leave of the House, was withdrawn.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, in regard to the scheme itself, I have to make a few observations in addition to what has been referred to by the honourable member Mr. Krishna Aiyar. In the first place, I wish to submit that the proposed rate of 25 chuckrams per acre as basic tax, is in my opinion, too high. My reasons are these: The total area of *cyacut* lands in Travancore is approximately 24·5 lakhs acres—there might be a little more or less. The minimum existing rate of tax is only four chuckrams per acre for dry lands and 18 chuckrams and a few cash per acre for wet lands. That is one aspect... ...

PRESIDENT: Order, order: I would be indebted to the honourable member if he would suggest any other rate.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I would suggest that three cash per cent would be a very reasonable rate. Now, according to the proposed rate, the total basic tax alone will come to about 22 lakhs of rupees approximately. By the levy of income tax on agricultural income of Rs. 5,000 and above, Government have been able to collect during the current year Rs. 19 lakhs. If the taxable level is reduced to Rs. 2,000 we are sure to get at least double the amount. This together with the basic tax on all the lands will be far in excess of the present land revenue of 42 lakhs. So, my submission is that 3 cash per cent will be a very modest rate.

Sir, then there are also other difficulties that will have to be considered by the Government in regard to this matter. The *Jenmom* lands are now liable, only to 1/8th portion of the Government tax, *i. e.*, lands demised on Kanapattom by Jenmies. Now, if the rate as proposed now is to be made applicable in those cases also, it would work some hardship on the Kanapattom kudiyans. Then there are lands in the possession of mortgagees and lessees. With regard to such lands, we must seriously consider what the *modus operandi* is for the levy of tax under the new system, because as proposed at present, the land owners will have to pay income-tax on the agricultural income from these lands, but in the case of the mortgagees and lessees if they are also going to be assessed on the portion of the income which go to their share from the very same property, it will be double taxation on the same income. This has to be guarded against.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: May I know how?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: In the case of the mortgage the income derived from the land is likely to be taken into consideration for assessing both the mortgagor and the mortgagee.

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PRESIDENT: Order, order. What happens today when the *thandaper* holder executes a mortgage and expects the mortgagee to pay the land revenue.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Technically the mortgagor is liable to pay sirkar tax. But if there is provision in the mortgage deed by which the mortgagee is made liable to pay tax, he will pay. My objection is not with regard to the liability of the mortgagor or the mortgagee to pay the tax due to Government, but that only one among them should be made liable to pay tax on the same agricultural income. What I say is that there should be provision to ensure that double taxation is not effected in respect of the same income.

PRESIDENT: How can it be? Because the income tax *ex-hypothesi* means tax from income. Either the *thandaper holder* gets the income or by virtue of a mortgage or long term lease executed by him in favour of another he hands over to him the usufruct of the land, in which case the income is derived by the man who gets the usufruct and not by the owner and therefore the income tax is levied on the man who gets the income.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I am satisfied, Sir. My only point is that there should not be double taxation.

PRESIDENT: Income tax means a tax on income. If a man does not get the income, he cannot be taxed.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: With regard to simple leases, I wish to bring to the attention of the House this fact.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. If it is a tenancy at will, the owner will have to pay.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: That is my position. For the net agricultural income from that land, the owner will have to pay income tax. Suppose, out of the total yield, the pattom goes to the lessor and the balance may go to the ordinary lessee as his share of the income. At first the tax may be levied on the total income so far as the lessor is concerned and subsequently the portion of the income which will go to the lessee may probably be made liable to income-tax because that will be the lessee's income. Here, it is a case of double taxation.

PRESIDENT: It is exactly by way of analogy. Supposing, a landowner has to pay to a contractor a certain sum for manuring the field or to render the field fit for cultivation. The net income on which income-tax is liable will be paid, and a receipt is given to that amount paid to the contractor if it is legitimate and not an illusory amount. Similarly, if there is a lessee, the amount which he gets as a lessor's due under the lease document will be his income. The lessee's income is what he gets as his portion of the income. What is the difficulty?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: I am satisfied, but if we do not explain or bring to your pointed attention all these aspects of the question, that may lead to several difficulties in future, and more

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especially when we do not find any inclination on the part of the Government to constitute a committee consisting of officials and non-officials to go into the whole question before final decision is arrived at in this important matter.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. I think that is not justifiable. What the Gayernment said was that there was no use in a matter of this kind to have a central committee constituted. The various Peishkars would be asked to have consultation with the members of the Legislature and of the localities concerned as well as with other public men and then they will put forward arguments appropriate to that locality. For instance, the arguments relating to Nanjnad are quite different from those relating to Kuttanad. That is what the Government propose to do. In other words, there will be what may be called local gatherings for the purpose of finding out, for instance, whether these figures furnished by Mr. Puliyoor Velayudhan Pillai should be the basic tax or some other figure; what precautions should be taken to see that harassment does not take place, what precautions should be taken to see that the income is readily computed and not double charged. All these things will be discussed in that conferenee.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Will it not conduce to better results if we are allowed to bring our view points directly to the attention of the ultimate deciding authority rather than bringing the same to the attention of some other subordinate divisional authorities.

I would next come to the policy of industrialisation of Government. I fully welcome the steps taken by Government for attracting foreign capital to the State for carrying on large scale industrial activities and at the same time making the necessary provision for enabling Government to have an effective control over them and also by giving all facilities to Travancoreans for taking as many shares as they want in such concerns without any reservation or restriction as in the case of outsiders. Sir, we have every reason to confidently hope that these big industrial concerns would ultimately contribute to the material and everlasting prosperity of the country and its people. Sir, our past experience might have probably induced the present administration not to start such large scale industries purely as Government concerns, and so my submission is that the present policy of Government is commendable.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Does the honourable member know that the Mysore Government carries on its industries by indigenous capital?

PRESIDENT: Is that correct?

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Mainly

PRESIDENT: With regard to main industries, it is not correct.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Does the President mean the Kolar Gold Fields?

PRESIDENT: The Kolar Gold Fields, the Badravathi Iron Works Silk Textiles, Wollen goods, etc.—in all these things there is a tremendous amount of outside capital. Being a shareholder myself, I know something of it.

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MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I draw the attention of the House to this sentence of the Mysore Dewan's speech on this matter? "26 industrial concerns, 18 of which are State-owned or State-aided, have already supplied for war purposes a variety of articles to the total value of Rs. 12 crores."

PRESIDENT: Order, order. The point is this. In regard to another subject the same question was raised in the Mysore Legislature and very wisely the Mysore Minister stated that they did not want any comparison between Travancore and Mysore—I also do not wish to make any comparisons between Mysore and Travancore. There are no industries in Mysore of the scale comparable with the industries which are being started here, apart from the Kolar Gold Fields which are centrally owned and operated by foreign capital and the Badravathi Iron Works which are essentially State concerns. Similarly, so far as this State is concerned, Government have made it perfectly clear that what may be called basic things which are vital to the existence of the State, *viz.*, Hydro Electric Enterprise, irrigation,—major and minor new Reservoirs, and things of that kind which have no commercial aspect and which have to be conducted whether they are profitable or not to the State—as State-owned are to be entirely the property of the State. Therefore the means of communication, road making, bridge building, canal development, building of new roads, starting of cement and other factories for the purpose of improving those roads, Hydro Electric enterprises, Irrigation enterprises—these will be entirely the property of the State. That is, no outsider will ever be allowed to have any share in the capital. There are commercial concerns which may end in a profit or which may end in a loss. Take, for instance, the Fertilisers and Chemicals. It may end in a profit or it may end in a loss, but the Government came to the conclusion that—they are pledged in fact to sell the ammonium sulphate and the phosphatic manures—the fertilisers should be sold to the ryots at cost price, whatever loss might occur in the process. Government have nevertheless invested more than a crore of rupees on that, because they consider it as their elementary duty. What they expect to do is to cover that loss or recover the loss by the manufacture of sulphuric acid and its bye-products which, taken in conjunction with mineral sands and their exploitation, will give us a good profit. Therefore, from that point of view, that is regarded as a basic industry in which Government have taken 51 per cent. of the shares. Take again, for instance, the manufacture of motor tyres. Government will at once have competition from other Tyre Companies such as Goodrich, Dunlop and Firestone who are not going to keep quiet. They will immediately start competition and we may incur loss or get a profit. There are people who are willing to take loss or profit and they are starting it, and we are helping them. Therefore, commercial enterprises are generally taken by private individuals. Of course, it may be said that no doubt in the past Travancore has not taken any large share, but they are perfectly willing to do so now. If I get any such offers from local persons, I would have

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accepted them immediately. Speaking of Mysore again, they started certain pioneer enterprises but having known by their experiences that Government enterprise cannot be run on the basis of profit making, they are gradually divesting themselves of many of their enterprises *e. g*, soap and various other things, and handing them over to private enterprise.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, page 161 of the budget, gives us a true picture of the rather pitiable condition in which the Department of Industries is placed at present. Out of a total revenue of Rs. 623·65 lakhs, the total amount allotted to this Department is only Rs. 1·8 lakhs.

PRESIDENT: That is only for cottage industry.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: A major portion of this small amount is to be consumed by the establishment. This is a sure index of the way in which this important branch of the Development Department is practically neglected by Government. Of late it would appear that any body may be put in charge of this Department even though he had absolutely no technical knowledge or experience in its practical working. I do not find any substantial amount allotted in the next year's budget for promoting the cottage industries in the State except the provision of Rs. 2 lakhs for the establishment of a Silk Factory. My humble submission is that it is high time for Government to reorganise this Department and place substantial amounts at its disposal at least for working out a definite plan in order that the cottage industries may be promoted to the utmost possible extent.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member might finish soon.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Yes, Sir. I would also add that we won't grudge paying any amount for appointing a high paid officer who has got a thorough knolwedge of industry and industrial planning especially for the Post-war Reconstruction period. The prosperity of the State depends mainly upon education, increased irrigation facilities, means of communication and public health. We are very glad to note that the Government have already taken steps for implementing their policy in relation to these three important matters. As the report of the Education Reorganisation Committee will come up for discussion on the floor of this House very shortly, I would reserve my remarks on education for that occasion.

With a view to increase the irrigation facilities in the State, Government have included in the Post-war Reconstruction budget a provision of Rs. 17·8 lakhs of which Rs. 16 lakhs is for the Perunchanni Reservoir Scheme. The lump sum provision for the investigation of major irrigation works, improvement of tanks, Kayal reclamation scheme, and the Pamplyar scheme will no doubt substantially improve the economic conditions of the agricultural population of the State. In an agricultural country like Travancore, the problem of improving live stock should naturally engage the anxious consideration of Government and it is only in the fitness of things that the provision of

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[Mr. Puliyoor T. P. Velayudhan Pillai.]

Rs. 90000 has also been included in the next year's budget for implementing the recommendations of Dr. Millen of the Veterinary Department of the Government of India.

Then, Sir, coming to public health, I am in duty bound to openly express the deep gratitude of the people of Central and North Travancore to Government for their having been pleased to take prompt measures for combating the outbreak of malaria in an epidemic form in these places by appointing a special officer and also by making liberal provision for the supply of medicine. I am glad to submit that the Director of Public Health has spared no pains to bring the disease under control. It is also gratifying to note that the Government have provided a total allotment of Rs. 8·9 lakhs for the construction of a first-class hospital in Trivandrum exclusively for children in memory of the late Prince Avittom Tirunal, and for the reorganisation of the other important medical institutions in the State.

Sir, one important matter which I wish to urge upon the attention of Government is that at least this time, your repeated assurance regarding the positive completion of all the P. W. D. works provided for in the next year's budget may be made an accomplished fact.

Sir, every year we return home after the Budget Session with the fervent hope that we would get a few bridges and roads constructed here and there during next year. But it had been our sad experience, Sir, that our hopes were completely frustrated on account of the inordinate delay and slackness of the P. W. D.

The proposal for the construction of the Kollakadavu Bridge on the Chengannoor-Mavelikara road for which there have been budget provisions for several years is a typical example of such delay on the part of the P. W. D. Sir, from 1108 forward I have been getting the same answer from Government in regard to the construction of Kollakadavu Bridge that the estimate had not been sanctioned by Government.

MR. P. O. THOMAS: Does the honourable member feel that with the efficient supervision now available the budget allotment for the P. W. D. will be spent in the course of the next year?

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Sir, it is entirely left to the final authority, the Chief Engineer. The Budget allotment may be quite inadequate. I do not question the sincerity of my friend. But it is for the department to make up the deficiency by diversion. Anyhow my faith in the capacity, the sincerity of purpose, and devotion to duty of the present youthful Chief Engineer (laughter) leads me again to hope that we will get this particular bridge actually constructed before the close of the next year at least. Sir, may I remind the Chief Engineer of the warning you have given the P. W. D. in your speech delivered on 20th June 1945 at the time of the opening of the

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"Marthanda Varma" Water Works when you said that Government would no longer brook either delay or imperfect supervision and would take very serious notice of delays or irregularities.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Mr. President, in rising to make my comments on the Financial Secretary's speech introducing the Budget, I share with him the joy and the relief at the termination of hostilities in Europe. It means the end of Fascist agression. But victories of peace are still distant. As Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru put it the other day, "Revolutionary forces are determining the fate of Europe to-day, and coming nearer home, a similar situation is facing Asia. This revolutionary flood is bound to influence India. India must look at her problems in their true perspective."

Now, Sir, at the out-break of the war I came across the five peace points enunciated by Pope Pius XII as foundations of peace. One of them is this. "A fundamental postulate of any just and honourable peace is an assurance for all nations, great or small, powerful or weak, of their right to life and independence. The will of one nation to live must never mean the sentence of death passed upon another.' I do hope that a new world order will emerge assuring to all people the right to life and freedom.

Coming now to our own country, I share the disappointment felt by so many others at the failure of the Simla Conference. I hope that the Viceroy would spare no efforts to settle the Indian political question. Sir, I agree with the Dewan when he said the other day in his Budget speech that no settlement of the Indian political situation would be permanent, without the Indian States coming into it The Indian question cannot have a stable and right settlement unless the question of the freedom of the people of the States is also solved.

The freedom movement in India is intertwined with the freedom movement of the people of the States. People's interests and freedom are the determining factors; and we have to be conscious of the truth, Sir, that no arrangement will endure unless the freedom movement in the States is also recognised and peoples' rights are given their due recognition and place. India is one whole; and it is impossible to visualise a free India marching forward while the States lag behind.

Sir, the question of Responsible Government in Travancore and other Indian States is not an issue which can be put off for a distant future. We, as a party which I have the honour to represent here, are wedded to this objective of responsible Government for the State. For, we believe that no free life is possible in Travancore without it. Sir, there is irresponsible and inefficient administration in the State. Some of us had sent for the consideration of this House resolutions requesting Government to take steps for the establishment of Responsible Government in Travancore. But those resolutions, I am sorry to note, have been disallowed. Sir, a resolution of a similar character was admitted and discussed in 1113 in the Sri Mulam Assembly. I am at a loss to know why the Dewan has disallowed it this time in the face of the precedent.

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PRESIDENT: The honourable member is perhaps referring to the discussion in 1938.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Yes; 1113.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member will notice that in the course of my speech on that occasion I said that the resolution was not allowable and could not be taken into consideration. I heard various honourable members and then made a speech in which I pointed out how the introduction of the Responsible Government in all Indian States and therefore in Travancore, cannot but be dealt with in relation to the question of paramountcy. There was discussion in the House of Commons on that matter and one Right Honourable member who then occupied a Cabinet position took a view different from the point of view indicated by me. Others equally eminent however, agreed with that point of view and I have nothing more to say now excepting to repeat what I then said, namely that the question of responsible Government cannot be discussed or cannot be effectuated in an Indian State when the present treaty relations between this State or any other Indian State and the British Government subsist.

I definitely hold the view that so long as His Highness the Maharaja is under treaty obligations, entitled and bound to act in a particular manner on certain occasions he cannot introduce responsible government in the State, because if he is to establish responsible government he will have to be guided, unless the scheme is a camouflage like the appointment of ministers with no decisive powers, by the advice of the ministers in every matter big or small, in the matter, for instance, of the question of tariffs or customs or extradition or immigration or emigration, the question of administration of the Defence of India Regulations, the administration of matters arising out of the war or in respect of commerce and commercial treaties. It may not be possible for His Highness the Maharaja, consistently with his treaty obligations, absolutely to follow the advice of a responsible minister. Therefore I have held the view-it is my personal view and may be right or wrong-but in view of such an opinion I must hold that responsible government at the present juncture is not possible. In any case under our Rules it is not permissible as a subject for discussion.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: On a point of elucidation, Sir. As one who moved the motion I may state this, Sir, that this State has not joined the Chamber of Princes because it is too advanced—

RAJYASEVANIRATA S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR: On a point of order, Sir.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: His Highness the Maharaja has not joined the Chamber of Princes because he is ruling a country which got its legislature first among the India States and has very much advanced.

PRESIDENT: Oh! No, The Chamber of Princes is a body formed under the aegis of His Majesty the King Emperor. Automatically every salute ruler is a member. Therefore whether Travancore likes it or

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not, we are technically members of the Chamber of Princes; only, for reasons which I cannot disclose this Government as well as certain other Governments came to the conclusion that their further continuance in the active work of the Chamber is not possible. They have therefore notified to the Chamber that they may be treated as non-members of the Chamber; that they will not participate or send in a representative, that, in short they will have nothing to do with the Chamber of Princes.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Even the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes recently stated in a speech that they are going to take steps to establish responsible government.

PRESIDENT: That cannot be. I know the opinions of the Chancellor at first hand and I can assert the contrary.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Well. It has been reported so in the papers.

PRESIDENT: If so, that is not correct.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Well we are not in the know of things about the Chamber of Princes.

PRESIDENT: You can go without it-

MR. K. A. MATHEW: I wish the Government of Travancore would not take shelter behind technicalities and will be imaginative enough to associate with the people in the governance of the country.

PRESIDENT: Now that the question has been raised I may make this clear —I do not indulge in any camouflages in this respect. This Government are of the opinion that there is no middle course between the present system and full responsible Government. This Government are also of the opinion that what is called association of ministers with Government with the residual rights being exactly where they are at present, is not responsible Government or a near approach to responsible Government. Therefore this Government as now consti tuted, will advise His Highness not to make such an experiment. Either there is full responsible Government in the Westminster sense or there is not. And here I may add that personally I entertain the very strong opinion that neither for this State nor for British India for that matter is the responsible Government of the Westminster type suitable. I have not made a secret of this opinion. I hold the view that what is most essential for a country like ours at this juncture is continuity of policy. Therefore while the root ideas of democracy and representation of the people in the Legislature and responsiveness to the people are essential, the executive should not be turned out by an adverse vote, from time to time. I hold personally that the American model is a better system than the English model. I consider that the English statesmen are wrong in thinking that responsible government on their own model is *ipso facto* suitable for India. The honourable member can now proceed to make his observations.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: I am glad it is the personal view of the Dewan of the State.

PRESIDENT: That is a personal view.

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MR. K. A. MATHEW: I do not want to go into the legal and constitutional intricacies of the question. But I imagine what the Dewan President has stated is his own personal view. There is the other side of the medal which I hope, he will recognise.

PRESIDENT: I may add that I have the misfortune of differing from most people for whom I have the greatest respect. The honourable member is perfectly entitled to his view.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: If the Travancore administration is to be efficient and if the civil liberties of the citizens are to be safeguarded, responsible government is very essential. Mr. P. T. Punnoose and Mr. Srikantan Nair were arrested and detained without trial.

PRESIDENT: Mr. Srikantan Nair was convicted by a court of law.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Mr. Battom Thanu Pillai, Miss. Annie Mascarine and Mr. C. Narayana Pillai were arrested and detained without trial a few months back. The civil liberty of a person is therefore in danger.

PRESIDENT: I hope the honourable member is aware that a few thousands of people are dealt with in that manner in British India and that Mr. Eamon de Valera has introduced this morning the Defence of Ireland Act allowing him to detain anybody without trial.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: We do not hold the same view as the British Indian Government does.

PRESIDENT: Order, Order. Mr. Chellappan Pillai is well-known in procedure. He knows perfectly well that a point of order is one by means of which he can get up any moment; but interruptions pursued as a systematic procedure are not part of the duties of an honourable member and are not to be regarded as points of order. He has got the fullest possible right to express himself when his turn comes.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Sir, reactionary policies followed in some other part of India or in Ireland need not be pursued here, but a progressive policy should be adopted. There is no good in copying the wrong things done in other parts of the world. Let us make our own whatsoever things are of good report elsewhere.

The administration of Travancore would be really beneficial to the people if there is responsible government in the country. There is inefficiency and irresponsibility in the Government departments. An evidence of it was brought to our notice today in this Assembly in the failure of Government in not preparing the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts and presenting them to the Public Accounts Committee appointed statutorily for the purpose by this House. It is a grave infringement of the rights of this House.

At the last session I was very sorry to hear from the Dewan President that appointments had been made on political considerations and that Government posts were given to unfit persons, and if I remember a right in justification of this policy, the Dewan quoted an instance of Mr. Winston Churchill having given a job to some relation of his or of an inefficient man being made the Governor of a province.....

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PRESIDENT: Order, order. All that I said was that every government in the world, responsible or irresponsible, has to appoint persons not only on the ground of abstract or competitive merit; other considerations also come in. In theory every communal appointment is an appointment of an unfit man. The appointment of a backward community man on the ground of his belonging to that backward community is appointment of an unfit man. Similarly if a person who has rendered meritorious service to the State suddenly dies or becomes incapacitated for work and if an appointment is given to a relation of his for the purpose or as a means of rewarding the services of the other person, that appointment is one given to an unfit person. The level of intelligence and education being as high as it is in Travancore today, even technically unfit persons will soon qualify themselves and make good. All that I said was that Government have had to make appointments which cannot be justified purely on the abstract ground of merit or on the basis of an actual or potential competition. If that should be so, all rules in regard to communal rotation should be got rid of. We must then as in China adopt a series of examinations, for all places in the State. That cannot be done here and the general opinion is that it should not be done. That being so, I said that some appointments may not be justifiable on the ground of abstract merit, but are undoubtedly political or quasi-political or even personal in character. They are inevitable and if honourable members will see what is being done in the most responsible of all responsible countries, they will realise that the principle is in full force everywhere.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: When I listened to these words, that fell from you I felt it was a very deplorable state of things. I felt it was confusing the whole administration. As I said a moment ago, it is not right for us to copy what is bad in other places. Our purpose should be to set as high an example as possible for others to follow. Let the effort of the Government be to create a public service which is above board.

PRESIDENT: If that is so, that reform can be introduced. If this honourable House and the other House are of the opinion that no appointments should be made except on the basis of a competitive test, this Government can surely introduce it within twenty four hours. There is no difficulty. The whole question is whether appointments should also be made on the basis of community, or of particular hardships etc. I shall give an instance. A person has volunteered for the war-one such appointment is in my mind's eye. Both his legs have had to be amputated, and he is sent away from the Army. He has got a son who is duly qualified to be appointed in the public service, but he would not take his turn according to the Public Service Recruitment Rules. Is he to be given an appointment or not?

There is another person who has served this State honourably and honestly for about 25 or 30 years. He suddenly dies leaving a family of nine children. Two of those children want free scholarship, one of them wants a job to keep the family going. Is such a person to be given a footing in the public service? Abstractly considered, he is unfit. What does the honourable member suggest in these cases?

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MR. K. A. MATHEW: I am afraid the Dewan President is confusing the issues. I never said that when appointments are made communal representation should not also be kept in view. What I urge is that it is wrong on the part of Government to make appointments on political considerations.

PRESIDENT: I suppose honourable member knows that numerous appointments are made once every four years in America on political considerations. After every presidential election, there are thousands of new appointments made there, from the Post Master to the Secretary.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: There is much difference between that policy and the policy in our country. America is a democratic country where the head of the administration is elected by the votes of the people. Here the policy is different. This government seems to be a believer in the policy of Walpole. Every man has a price here.

PRESIDENT: I think honourable member is very wrong in saying that every man has a price here.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: I want to see the Government take a strong hand in putting down corruption and inefficiency in the State. Rightly or wrongly there is a general belief that only golden keys can open the doors of some departments. In the administration of the Control Departments like Food, Textile, Eggs, Petrol, Tyre etc., bribery and corruption are rife. This must have been clear to the Government when the Textile control was discussed in this House at its last sitting.

PRESIDENT: Does the honourable member suggest that there is bribery and corruption in the Textile Control department?

MR. K. A. MATHEW: There undoubtedly is a widespread belief that there is bribery and corruption in the Textile control department. The other day I came across a statement made by Mr. S. Butler, officer on special duty appointed by the Government of India after his tour in the Provinces and States, including Travancore. He said that bribery and corruption were on an extensive scale in Food administration in Provinces and States and that Provincial and State Governments did not generally speaking take sufficient steps in this direction.'

PRESIDENT: It may be interesting to the honourable member to learn that Mr. Butler has stated in relation to this State that he was quite satisfied with the Food Department and its administration. The honourable member cannot quote his words in one way and forget his remark in another way. During his tour in the State he said that the administration here was worthy of emulation. The honourable member cannot quote one portion of his remarks and make the Press take down that statement forgetting the other statement.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: I was just quoting the very words of Mr. Butler, and they revealed a disquieting situation.

The Financial Secretary has grandiloquently, designated his budget as "buoyant". He has called it 'the budget for the future generations." I respect his buoyancy of spirit in characterising his budget in these terms and for the solicitude for the future generations. I am afraid I cannot share his buoyancy. The budget is, in several respects,

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one which mortgages the interests and welfare of our future generations. As the Financial Secretary admits, the lion's share of this "buoyant" revenue of "unattained heights" is from Abkari. The abkari revenue for the current year, marks an increase of 228 per cent. over the previous year's. This revenue collected at the cost of the moral and economic degradation of the people of the country is certainly not in the interests of the future generation.

Now, I come to the industrial policy at present pursued by the State. We have heard, time and again, the Dewan's perorations on the industrial schemes he adumbrates for Travancore. I, for one, have not been convinced about the wisdom of the present policy. My fear is that the policy pursued is not to the lasting good of the State. Travancore has become a happy hunting ground for enterprising capitalists from outside the State. When the Travancore Textiles, (formerly known as the Sri Chitra Mills,) was opened at Alwaye a few years back the Dewan assured us that it would be instrumental in ushering a number of cottage industries for making rayon in North Travancore. But, as yet, we have not come across rayon articles manufactured in Travancore. And now we are told that another gentleman from outside is starting a rayon industry in the State. The Travancore Textile factory, as most people now know, is only a concern for bleaching the stuff they get down from Bombay. In other words, it is doing only the dhoby's work.

Sir, on going through the Debt Heads in the budget I find that the Government have given nearly 50 lakhs of rupees as loan to the Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd; and Rs. one lakh to the Ogale Glass Mannfacturing Company. Sir, this is a very objectionable procedure. This House was never consulted about it. It was done at the back of this House. These loans are in addition to the amount of Rs 62 lakhs paid for shares by the Government in the industrial concerns. Sir, this is not, I am afraid designed in the interests of the future generation.

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: Sir, may I point out that they have repaid the whole amount?

PRESIDENT: The Fertilisers wanted money immediately for placing certain orders in America for which a loan was granted. That amount has been repaid by them in no time.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Sir, it is not the question of repayment at issue.

PRESIDENT: This House is not consulted on the matter of granting of loans.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know why?

PRESIDENT: This House is never consulted on the matter of grant of loans. That is the constitution.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: When such huge amounts are granted as loans without any reference to the representatives of the people we question the advisability of such a step.

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PRESIDENT: As I said this House is never consulted in the matter of grant of loans. The honourable member may proceed on that basis.

MR K. A. MATHEW: I do not see why the Travancore Government should act as a Banking Corporation and advance money. That is my point.

PRESIDENT: It is open to the honourable member to say his point of view. But if he answers from the party point of view or some other point of view and criticises the Travancore Fertilisers being given a loan, that may be his view point. But the honourable member must realise that this is a venture with a capital of 2 crores of rupees in which we have taken one crore of rupees. The first time that any dollar credit was given to anybody outside America, it is the Travancore Government. We got 3 million dollars assigned to Travancore by the combined activities of the British and American Governments and that 3 crores had to be spent towards the purchase of certain materials for which orders had to be placed. A deputation consisting of our own officers and the officers of the Fertilisers were in America. They wanted money urgently. That money was given. Of course it was immediately repaid. We also had to take shares.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Sir, my contention is that was done behind the back of this House.

PRESIDENT: A hundred times I have been telling this House that it has no right to be consulted with regard to the granting of loan. Today I can give a loan of 9 crores or ten crores even. The House has no right to be consulted. That is the mistake of the constitution.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Sir, I know there is nothing to prevent you from doing it under the present circumstances. But my point is.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member's remarks must be confined to the constitution of the House. This House has no right to be consulted with regard to the grant of loans. If the honourable member thinks that there is any misappropriation in the matter or any malversation, he is entitled to put forward the statement that the Dewan or somebody else gave the loan on no security or that the loan was given knowing that the firm was an insolvent one. In that manner objections can be raised, but the member cannot discuss the principle of the loan.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Sir, we do not know on what security the loan was granted by this Government. We are absolutely in the dark about the rate of interest at which the loan was granted. All these things are a sealed book to us. I would appeal to the house to take a serious view of this matter.

MR. S. NARAYANA AIYAR: The money has been repaid in a short time. The loan was granted on proper security.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: Sir, in the same way, in the matter of the revision of salaries of officers of Government, we were not consulted The revision was effected without our knowledge.

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I come to another question namely the 'grow more food scheme'. My submission is that the Travancore Government have done very little in this matter. Under that scheme the Mysore State has brought under cultivation an extent of 1,33,000 acres, has sold to the ryots during the year manure worth 6.6 lakhs of rupees at subsidized rates, and has distributed from Government depots agricultural implements of the value of 10½ lakhs of rupees. Sir, my submission is that nothing worth while has been done in this direction in Travancore. I am glad to hear of the Perunchani and Pambayar schemes to be launched by this Government as a part of the Post-war plan. We look forward to the time when these will prove beneficial to the agriculturists of Travancore. I feel Sir, that better and more useful work can be accomplished for the people's welfare if there is real co-ordination between the various Development Departments, such as Agriculture, Industry, Forest, Co-operation, Village Panchayat, Public Health etc. In every pakuthy there should be co-ordinated efforts of these departments. Otherwise, agriculture and industry will be mere ornaments.

Before I close, Sir, I want to touch on a matter of great importance raised here by the Dewan-namely the proposal for the abolition of land tax as such. I have no hesitation in agreeing with the principle underlying this reform. But my difficulty lies in the scheme of the agricultural land tax which is sought to be introduced. It might lead to harassment and oppression of the people at the hands of the revenue authorities in the course of assessing the tax. It is a very complicated question and there should not be much hurry in making a decision on this without going into the matter thoroughly and clearly. There are many questions involved which require investigation and gauging of public opinion. I do not think that a mere discussion with the Peishkars on this matter would suffice. That is not a correct method of ascertaining public opinion. Travancore system of land tax is very complicated. Different tenures are in vogue. Lands are classified into various tharams. There is the question of the Edavagas. The Government must consider the pros and cons of this thorny question before a decision is made. Public opinion must be known.

Government have adumbrated the Post-war Scheme. Of course that scheme is good. But I think that if the scheme, however laudable it may be, is to be put into operation, co-operation of the people is indispensable. Unless the people are associated in the formulation and execution of them the hearts of the people will not be in them, and nothing useful to the public would be turned out. Our schemes are not to remain mere paper schemes. They are to be put into operation, and I am very anxious that the Travancore Government should win the active co-operation of the people through their representative and push forward the nation-building activities.

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MR. A. P. UDAYABHANU: Sir, the Financial Secretary has been complimented from all quarters for the buoyant budget that he has presented to the House. Looking at the array of Indian States, Travancore occupies the third place in the matter of revenue. This is a matter for congratulation in one respect, but Sir, today we are occupying that dizzy height drenched in alcohol and that makes me very anxious about the future of the State. One of the most important items of revenue in this year's budget is from abkari as pointed out by the Leader of the State Congress Party. That shows that the moral standard of the people has been very much exploited. The morality of the people has been quite recently exploited for the revenues of the State. That is not a happy thing. People who care for the welfare of the State, who are anxious about the future of the State cannot look upon this state of affairs with equanimity. Another most important form of revenue is income tax. Looking at that we can see to what extent the revenue has gone up. When deflation takes place the position will be different. Income tax has reached its highest peaks because of inflation. Naturally when deflation takes place we have to suffer a good deal on that item. Today we are standing before a magnifying mirror and therefore there is no difficulty so far as the revenues are concerned. But we hope to make up for deficiencies by postwar development schemes and industrialisation. I hope your mulberry trees will grow very soon and the chimneys will soon begin to shoot up in the air and prevent a fall from the precipice.

Sir, the Budget has been very elaborately prepared and placed before us. But looking at the Audit Report for 1117 and 1118 one wonders whether this is a correct budget. We may be provided with a surplus at the end of the year without fully utilising it. But, Sir, you have asked the Heads of Departments to see that they do not make any surpluses nor do they make any savings at the cost of the nation building schemes. They have been requested to take care of the Departments and adjust their budgets properly. In case any money is needed in the interval they are at liberty to come with a supplementary grant and when that is not possible make a provision under Section 32 of the Act. That power is very liberally exercised and that has curtailed the privileges of the House to control and supervise the finance of the country. That shows lack of control in the finances of the State. The very generous exercise of Section 32 is one of the acts which has encouraged the heads of departments not being careful in the preparation of estimates. They seem to be like greedy children who would grab freely from all the plates around them eating precious little and spoiling the whole lot. That is the way in which they are preparing the budget for the departments, rather managing the business of the respective departments. Moreover in spite of the very top heavy administration, heavy salaries from the finances of the country, the officers are not in a position to manage the affairs of the department properly. For instance even at this

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juncture at the end of 1120 we are not supplied with the Audit Report and Appropriation Accounts for 1119. That is the state of affairs that is obtaining in the Government. There is something really rotten about it. They show an inefficiency which is inexcusable.

The most important thing which makes this budget an advance from the previous year's budget is that we have a provision for post-war reconstruction schemes. Sir, today post-war reconstruction has become a very fashionable thing, as fashionable as the rectangular watches. Every government in India has a post war scheme and they will not stir out whether it be the Provincial, Central or Indian State Government without the postwar reconstruction schemes. But I ask, is this scheme going to bring about real relief? Is this scheme going to reconstruct the life of the people? Is it after a careful planning such a scheme has been embarked upon? These are questions which I have been considering in recent times. If planning is not done on right lines the postwar reconstruction scheme will not lead us anywhere. If we want the schemes to work they must have the people as the mainsprings and in those mainsprings lie the inspiration from the people. Otherwise it will be a toy watch. Without the people being inspired, without initiative coming from the people, the post-war reconstruction schemes will end in frustration. They can carry us nowhere. Sir, whatever may be the dynamic quality of those who have sponsored these postwar schemes, unless the people are enthused and there is confidence in the Goverument every scheme of theirs will end in frustration. No one can carry on the dead weight of a people who are inert, who are not inspired and whose confidence is not invoked. Today the people are cowed down. We say that the State of Travancore occupies a third place among the Indian States from the point of view of revenue. Sir Travancore might have grown but, have Travancoreans grown big, I ask. That is an aspect which we have to consider. From the point of view of civil liberties, from the fundamental rights of the citizens I ask the question, have Travancoreans advanced ? I must assert Sir, when we look back we must say that Travancore has definitely gone back. We will just see the conditions of the newspapers. They are like coy maidens and are afraid of speaking out things. They indulge in whispers. That is the case of the people. Their civil liberties are curtailed, If you take the case of the politicians of the country, Government are playing a cat and mouse game. That is the fate of the people. Unless the people feel that they can openly speak out things, that their civil liberties are not curtailed, that they are given the initiative to work out these schemes, the so called reconstruction schemes are not going to take us anywhere. Now there is a scheme of postwar reconstruction to be worked out by a highly paid officer. I do not know how far and to what extent he has been planning on the problems of the country. I do not know whether he is imaginative enough to deal with the various problems facing the country and plan for the country's welfare. That is a very important thing.

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[Mr. A. P. Udayabhanu.]

Sir, in any post war scheme we must first of all ascertain the will of the people. We should know what their real necessities are. A person however eminent he may be, looking from above, cannot really ascertain the real needs of the people, get a true vision of the people. It is only those people who are moving among the people, who have cast their lots with the people that can really know the needs and aspirations of the people. Without ascertaining that, without planning on such lines, if we embark upon big post-war reconstruction schemes, they are going to fail. In the post war reconstruction scheme, is there anything for social security? No civilised government today can remain content by balancing a budget and showing a surplus fund. What they have to show is that they budget on the basis of the man power. They should take into consideration the human aspect. They should take into consideration the subjects of the State and it is on the basis of these things that the planning should be based. From that point of view I do not know how far we can be proud about the budget. Nothing along the social security scheme like the Beveridge scheme is envisaged. Is there any provision for old age pension? Is there any provision for unemployment? Is there anything for sickness? Of course, we have passed the Public Health Bill. That is all right. Is there any sufficient provision to implement that Bill? After all, if we are not going to plan our budget on the basis of human values, we are not leading the country anywhere.

Looking at the agricultural department I have to say one thing. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people of this country. That seems to be only a toy department. That is a small department, a department which is not going to do anything. If our agricultural department is to do anything, it must be well staffed and they must go and work among the people. They must work among the people and help them and advise them in all the vital matters. But our Agricultural department is only a sample department. In our post-war reconstruction scheme we have to make the agricultural department one of the major departments of the State. Then only can the country go ahead.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA (*Commerce and Industry South*) : The one noteworthy feature of recent years is the phenomenal rise in our revenue with the result we have budgeted for Rs. 623 lakhs for the next year. We are having a surplus of Rs. 139 lakhs in the actuals of 1119. We expect a surplus of Rs. 166 lakhs according to the revised estimate for 1120 and we have budgeted for Rs. 123 lakhs for 1121. Much has been debated whether this phenomenal rise is due to war conditions alone or whether it is also due to our timely launching out the industrialization of Travancore I like to examine the question to what extent our surplus is due to war conditions. To put it concretely, supposing we had not launched upon various industrial schemes such as the Rubber factory, the Sugar factory, Glass factory, China clay factory, Transport etc. in time all the good revenues we are deriving from these would not have been available to us. I think we can equitably put it at fifty

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fifty basis. What I mean is 50 per cent is due to war conditions and 50 per cent to our timely launching of industrial schemes. Granting that 50 per cent of the increase is due to war conditions I maintain that it would be a correct estimate to have Rs. five crores as our normal revenue. These surpluses are very helpful to meet our heavy cost of food grains as well as to build up resources. It has been stated by one member that we are standing before a magnifying mirror and we see ourselves in a magnified form owing to war conditions. I maintain that it is exaggeration to say that magnification is due to war conditions alone. I contend that magnification should not dwindle to an appreciable degree. I say so because we have launched our industrial concerns for the last six or seven years and during all these years we have gained experience. This experience will stand us in good stead to face competition from our neighbours.

As regards the appropriations I have one suggestion to offer. I find we have two funds. One revenue reserve is Rs. 61 lakhs and other is general revenue Rs. 75 lakhs—total Rs. 136 lakhs. This is expected at the end of 1121. But the post-war reconstruction fund at the end of 1121 is expected to be Rs. 444 lakhs. I think it would be better to increase our reserve funds a little more. I say so because it was stated by you sir, the anticipated loss as a result of our rice transaction will be more than one crore of rupees. If this is so we would be left with the reserve of Rs. 36 lakhs alone. To me it is an inadequate reserve. Therefore it is better we transfer from the post-war reconstruction fund to the Reserve fund a reasonable sum.

Then I come to the proposed change in the land revenue. I would like to preface my remarks as one speaking from the commercial man's point of view. Because I feel, I am not competent to pass judgement on the merits of proposed taxation. I only like to point out the fact that the welfare of the agriculturists and the prosperity of the industry are interdependent. Hence I like to look at it only from the industrial point of view and I welcome the change, because industries cannot thrive unless the purchasing power of the public is high and it is the poor agriculturists who form the bulk of the public. In order to raise the purchasing power of the poor ryots we must have rehabilitation of the ryots. Unless we do that, what will happen is this. We will be facing the strange sight of poverty in the midst of plenty. That is to say while there will be plenty in some quarters, in others there will be utter poverty. In order to prevent this lop-sidedness we must bring about improvements in the much desired relief of the poor agriculturists. I am not having rich agriculturists in view. Time and again pointed attention of the Government was drawn to the pitiable condition of the ryots, to the fact that the incidence of land tax was sitting heavily on the ryots. This is borne out by the following. Under the proposed system not more than Chs. 25 is levied by way of taxation on an acre of land, but it is as much as chs. 35 in some part of Nanjinad. It requires no stretch of imagination to understand the deplorable condition of the poor ryots. I do plead for the equitable distribution of tax. Unless this is done, prosperity will be lopsided and we will see poverty side by side with prosperity.

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[Mr. J. E. A. Pereira.]

Before I pass on to the Industrialisation Policy, I would like to touch upon one important matter *viz.*, Excess Profit Tax. We, the merchants all over Travancore made a strong representation to you regarding the retrospective operation of Excess Profit Tax I can definitely assure the Government that this aspect is a great hardship to the commerical community. Although the scheme is introduced in 1944, it is stated, it would operate from September 1942. I do not object to the Excess Profit tax as such. In my personal view I am not sure whether it is a credit or liability to Government, because there is a provision to pay the man who is losing. It may be justified as an anti-inflationary measure What I plead is for abolition of retrospective operation It works great hardship on the merchants especially in cases where partnership has been broken. You were kind enough to promise us that the matter will be reconsidered. I would like to see that the Financial Secretary makes some declaration about this matter at the time of his speech.

Sir, it is stated in the administration report of 1119 that the incidence of taxation per head works out to Rs. 1—12 ch. c. 12 whereas the incidence of income tax alone works at Rs. 1. chs. 5. This clearly incidentally indicates that the country is changing over from agricultural into industrial. It is a well known dictum of democracy that there can be no representation without taxation. It must follow as a corollary, the representation must be equal to the taxation.

I find we are very poorly represented. All that I find is half a dozen members representing commerce and trade. I do not mean anything should be done immediately. But the facts are there that we are poorly represented and it must be augmented at the earliest.

I now come to the future expansion of industries. Let me first thank you for the clear announcement of the policy. I am sure the whole country will be glad to hear that and the trading and commercial community in particular. I shall just briefly touch upon the main heads.

I shall begin with the manufacture of chemical derivatives out of mineral sands in which I have the privilege to deal. While I hold no brief for the other companies, to my belief all the companies generally favour the scheme. Speaking for myself, I not only see eye to eye with the Government in this very important matter but I had also anticipated this improvement earlier than the Government. While the Government have been thinking of it for the last three or four years I have been considering it for the last seven years. I have taken certain line of action by contacting more than one scientist and I am glad to say I have every reasonable hope of attaining success in the research conducted by my scientist, and God willing, I shall be able to submit a scheme before you at an early date and knowing very well your views on the policy of commercialisation in that a rightful place is given to private entrepreneurs in your schemes. I am hopeful that my scheme will meet with your acceptance. If my attempts fail, I shall be only glad to join in any scheme that Government might put up.

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I was very glad to note the proposed expansion of Hydroelectric scheme and your vision as regards the future by joining with the Madras and Mysore projects under a grid system. If this is done it will be a great impetus to all industrialists both big and small.

I now come to coastal navigation and improvement of ports. I am glad to find, a provision of Rs. 5 lakhs has been made for improvement of Vizhingham harbour Every pie of this allotment should be spent within a year. We have got a very ambitious programme to spend the Rs. 75 lakhs during the next year itself for post-war reconstruction. In this connection I would plead for taking in some non-officials to the various committees. I mean both members of the Legislative Assembly and Council as well as from the public. I say so because some of us do possess great experience in our respective trades and this will be very helpful. At least the non-officials will prove useful in expediting the work of the committee since the red-tapism of the Government servants is well known.

Your idea of training 500 men in the high technical line is another step which will be of great impetus to all. I also welcome the introduction of compulsory education.

There is one glaring omission in the post war reconstruction scheme. It mentions nothing about development of fisheries. There is much wealth embedded in our sea and we must have some distinct feature to embark upon schemes to tap the deep sea resources.

PRESIDENT: There is provision.

MR. J. E. A. PEREIRA: I am sorry, I failed to note this.

I am so glad to hear that the Government have decided to send a few men to get trained as labour welfare officers. Sir, as you pointed out there could be no place for selfish capitalists or unwilling labour in the post-war period and neither will be allowed to disturb the economic equilibrium. I heartily welcome this policy. Such trained men could take care of the welfare of labouring class that will prevent exploitation of labour by the capitalists.

As pointed out in your beautiful vision of the industrialisation of the State, if all the resources are marshalled out we do not see why we should not expect seven or eight crores of rupees in the near future say within a decade.

Sir, I agree with you that in the mineral sand we have something equivalent in value to coal fields in Mysore and iron-ore deposits in Behar and it would be pity if we do not exploit this source properly.

Some misapprehension was entertained by a few members with regard to the working of agricultural income tax that they may be taxed twice. As I said earlier I am not going to speak on the merits and demerits of the proposed tax, but with the experience I have with the working of income-tax I can assure the members this much. Double taxation will be prevented under the act in as much as if it is once taxed at the source it will not be taxed again in the hands of second or third party. I do not anticipate any difficulty in the working of the agricultural

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[Mr. J. E. A. Pereira.]

income tax and as far as I can see the four cash rate amounting to Chs. 25 per acre is a very equitable rate. But it may be reduced to three cash if insisted and I plead it may be introduced soonest so that the financial stability of the State might be kept up.

MR. CHAZIKKATTU JOSEPH : സർ, ഫ @ കൊല്ലങ്ങൾക്കു മുമ്പുബഡ്ജറ്റുനായരയണയ്യർ എന്നു പേരുള്ള സമ്പാദിച്ച ദേഹം ഇതിനു മുമ്പു ഒരിക്കലും ഉണ്ടായിട്ടില്ലാത്തവിധം പണം ഉണ്ടായ ഇക്കൊല്ലം തൃപ്തികരമായ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറ്റ് അവതരിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു സംബന്ധിച്ചു അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടില്ല. പണമില്ലാത്തകൊല്ലങ്ങളിൽ പുതുക്കിയ വരവുകൊണ്ടു അത്യാവശ്യംവേണ്ടചിലവുകൾ നിവ്വഹിക്കത്തക്ക വിധത്തിൽ ഒരു ബഡ്ജറ്റ് ഉണ്ടാക്കിയിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ അതു ഒരു വലിയ കാര്യമായി വിചാരിക്കാം. ഇന്നു മിച്ചം വരുന്നതായ പണം എന്തുചെയ്യേണ്ടു എന്നറിയാതെ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ ഗവൺമെൻറ് വിഷമിക്കുകയാണു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. സർ, അങ്ങു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിന്റെ ഭരണത്തിൽ മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലേക്കു് ഉത്തരവാദിയായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ നിയമസഭ തുടങ്ങിയിട്ടു ഇപ്പോഴും ഫ ഫ കൊല്ലമായി. പന്ത്രണ്ടു കൊല്ലത്തിലൊരിക്കൽ പൊളിച്ചെഴുത്തു നടത്തുക എന്നുള്ളതു് മലയാളത്തിലെ ഒരു സാധാരണ പതിവാണു്.. നിയമസഭയുടെ ഘടനയിൽത്തന്നെ ഒരു പൊളിച്ചെഴുത്തു നടത്തണമെന്നാണു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം. ഇന്നത്തെ പരിതസ്ഥിതിയിൽ ഉപരിമണ്ഡലമെന്നും അധോമണ്ഡലമെന്നും രണ്ടു മണ്ഡലങ്ങൾ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനു് ആവശ്യമില്ല രണ്ടു മണ്ഡലങ്ങളിലേയും അംഗസംഖ്യ ഏകോപിച്ചു കുറഞ്ഞപക്ഷം നൂറു മെമ്പറന്മാർ എങ്കിലും ഉൾപ്പെട്ട ഒരു സഭ ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽ കൂടുതൽ സൗകര്യമായിരിക്കും. സാമാജികന്മാരുടേയും മറ്റും ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടു വളരെ കുറയുകയും ചെയ്യും. അങ്ങേക്കു തന്നെ രണ്ടു സഭകളിലും മാറിമാറി ക്ഷമയോടുകൂടിയോ ക്ഷമകേടോടുകൂടിയോ ഇരിക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നതിലുള്ള ക്ലേശം കൂടാതെ കഴിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യാം, അതിനാൽ ഇന്നത്തെ ഈ നിയമസഭകൾ രണ്ടും ഉടച്ചുവാർക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഇലക്ഷനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു ഇന്നത്തെ വീരശൃംഖലയും, ഒരുശൃംഖലയും കൂടുമ്പോൾ വോട്ടോടുകൂടി , സമ്മതിദാനക്രമത്തെ അതേനിലയിൽനിന്നു വ്യത്യാസപ്പെടുത്താതെ തന്നെ രണ്ടു മണ്ഡലങ്ങളിലേയും പ്രതിനിധികളെ ഒരുമിച്ചുചേർത്തു നിയമസഭ നടത്തണമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ വിവക്ഷിക്കുന്നതു്..

MR. P. O. THOMAS : ഈ സഭകൾ രണ്ടും പിരിച്ചുവിട്ടിട്ടു പുതിയ സഭകൾ രൂപീകരിക്കണമെന്നാണോ മെമ്പറുടെ അഭിപ്രായം?

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MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: ഇപ്പോഴുള്ള രണ്ടു സഭയെങ്കിലുമാക്കിയിരുന്നെങ്കിൽ ചേർക്കണമെന്നാണ് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞത്. കഴിഞ്ഞ അസംബ്ലിക്കുമാത്രം ദിവസവും, കൗൺസിലിനു രണ്ടുദിവസവും സമയം അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അസംബ്ലിക്ക് നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരുന്ന സമയം ഒട്ടുംതന്നെ മതിയായില്ല. പല പ്രധാനസംഗതികളെപ്പറ്റി വാഗ്പ്രതിവാദം നടത്താൻ അസംബ്ലിയിൽ, സമയച്ചുരുക്കംകൊണ്ടു സാധിക്കാതെവന്നു. ഞാൻ അടുത്തദിവസം നടന്ന കൗൺസിലെ നടപടികൾ കാണാൻ പോയി, മനംമടുപ്പിക്കാനുള്ള ചെന്നതു്. അപ്പോഴേക്കും അവിടത്തെ വാഗ്പ്രതിവാദങ്ങൾ തീർന്നു കൗൺസിൽ പിരിഞ്ഞുകഴിഞ്ഞു. ചില ദിവസം ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നാൽപോലും വാഗ്പ്രതിവാദം അവസാനിക്കാൻ വിഷമമായ സംഗതികൾക്കു അസംബ്ലിയിൽ ൪ ദിവസംമാത്രം അനുവദിക്കുകയും അതേസമയം കൗൺസിലിന്റെ സമയം വെറുതേനഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്തുകയുമാണ് ചെയ്യുന്നതു്. ഈ ബഡ്ജറുസമ്മേളനത്തെപ്പറ്റിതന്നെ ആലോചിക്കാം. ഈ നിയമസഭ ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതിനു മുമ്പു്, അതായതു് ഫ്രാഞ്ചൈസിൽ പബ്ലിക്കു സർവീസ്, ഫുഡ്കൺട്രോൾ, ഏലക്ട്രിസിറ്റി, ടെലഫോൺ, മുതലായ വകുപ്പുകൾ ഇല്ലായിരുന്നു. ഫ്രാഞ്ചൈസിനുശേഷം മേൽവിവരിച്ചതുപോലെയുള്ള പുതിയ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെക്കൂടി ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തി വാഗ്പ്രതിവാദം നടത്തിവരുന്നു. പക്ഷേ ബഡ്ജറിന്റെ പൊതുവിമർശനത്തിനു ഇപ്പോഴനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സമയം ഫ്രാഞ്ചൈസിൽ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള രണ്ടു ദിവസം മാത്രമാണ്. അതു ഒരു പോരായ്മതന്നെയാണ്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ വിവിധ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളിലെ ഭരണസംബന്ധമായ വാഗ്പ്രതിവാദങ്ങൾ നടത്തുന്നതിനു കുറഞ്ഞതു ൩ ദിവസമെങ്കിലും അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. അതുകൂടാതെ ൪ ഡിമാൻറുകളാണ് ഇവിടെ വാഗ്പ്രതിവാദം നടത്തേണ്ടതായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഓരോ ഡിമാൻറിനും ഓരോ ദിവസമെങ്കിലും അനുവദിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഇല്ലെങ്കിൽ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ഡിമാൻറുകൾക്കു രണ്ടുദിവസം, മറ്റുള്ളവയ്ക്കു് ഒരു ദിവസം എന്നു കണക്കനുസരിച്ചെങ്കിലും തരേണ്ടതാണ്. പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട പല ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകളെപ്പറ്റി വാഗ്പ്രതിവാദം നടത്തുന്നതിനു ഇപ്പോൾ സമയം ലഭിക്കുന്നില്ല. പോലീസ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനെപ്പറ്റി, രക്ഷരം പറയുവാൻ കഴിഞ്ഞ ബഡ്ജറുസമ്മേളനത്തിൽ സമയം കിട്ടിയില്ല. അനേകം ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറുകൾ ഞങ്ങളുടെ നിരുപണത്തിനു വിധേയമാകാതെ പാസാക്കിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നുണ്ടു്. അതു നല്ലതല്ല. അതുകൊണ്ടു എല്ലാ ഡിമാൻറുകളെപ്പറ്റിയും ശരിയായ വിമർശനം നടത്താൻ അവസരം ലഭിക്കത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ നിയമസഭകൾക്കു കൂടുതൽ ദിവസങ്ങൾ വേണം.

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[Mr. Chazhikattu Joseph]

. . ഇപ്പോൾ ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ അദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാരെ ഉപദേശി ക്കാനായി ഓരോ കമ്മറിക്കും രൂപീകരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ഇതിനെപ്പററി "If the head of the department thinks so" എന്ന ഒരു വിശദീകരണം ഇന്നലെ ഇവിടെ പറയുന്നതുകേട്ടു. ഉപദേശം വേണമെന്നു ഡിപ്പാർ ട്ടുമെൻറദ്ധ്യക്ഷന്മാർ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്ന സമയത്തുമാത്രം ഈ കമ്മററി അദ്ദേഹത്തെ ഉപദേശിക്കണം. ആ കമ്മറിയുടെ ഉപദേശം ചെവ്വ ത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള അധികാരമൊ അവകാശമോ ആവശ്യമില്ല. ഈ കമ്മററി കം മിക്കതും പേരിനാണ്, അവകാശം യാതൊരു അധികാരവു മില്ല.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. That is not quite accurate, because the Government have stated, for instance, in regard to the Public Works Advisory Committee or the Public Service Committee that recommendations of the public bodies and advisory committees could be normally accepted unless the Government have definite reason for not accepting. Government have also stated in regard to the order of the construction of roads or buildings, that the decisions of the Public Works Committee would be automatically carried out. The same thing applies to the Public Service Advisory Committee and as far as I recollect, there are no committees in which subjects may or may not be brought forward solely at the discretion of the head of the department.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: ഒരധികാരവുമില്ല എന്നല്ല ഞാൻ പ റഞ്ഞതു്: വളരെ പരിമിതമായ അധികാരം മാത്രമേ ഈ കമ്മററി കംക്കു ഇപ്പോഴുള്ളു. കമ്മററി ഏകയോഗക്ഷേമമായി ഒരു തീരുമാ നം ചെയ്താൽപോലും, വേണമെങ്കിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറദ്ധ്യക്ഷനു അതു സ്വീകരിക്കാതെയിരിക്കാം. ആ കാരണത്താൽ ഇന്നത്തെ ഉപ ദേശകസമതികൾക്കു പറയത്തക്ക അധികാരമില്ലെന്നാണു ഞാൻ വിചാ രിക്കുന്നതു്. സിവിൽ പ്രൊസീഡിയർകോട്ട അമൻറുചെയ്യുന്നതിലേക്കു ഒരു കമ്മറിയെ നിയമിച്ചു എന്നും വീണ്ടും അതു ലീഗൽ റിമെമ്പറൻസുക്കു ഇഷ്ടമുള്ളവരെ ഏൽപ്പിച്ചു എന്നും ഇന്നലെ പറയുന്നതുകേട്ടു. പ്രത്യേകമായ അധികാരങ്ങളൊന്നും ഈ ഉപദേശകസമതികൾക്കു ഇ ല്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടുള്ള കുഴപ്പങ്ങൾക്കു ഒരു ഉദാഹരണമാണു് ഇതു്. ഇപ്പ കാരമുള്ള അനേകം ചെറിയചെറിയ കമ്മറിക്കും ഓരോ ഡിപ്പാർ ട്ടുമെൻറിനേയും ഉപദേശിക്കുന്നതിനു പകരം സർ, അങ്ങയെ ഉപ ദേശിക്കുന്നതിനു അഞ്ചോ ആറോ പേർ അടങ്ങിയ ഒരൊററ കമ്മററി യെ നിയമിക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കും. അങ്ങു് ഉപദേശം ആവശ്യ

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പ്പെട്ടുമ്പോൾ ഉപദേശം നൽകാൻ വേണ്ടിമാത്രം, അല്ലാതെ കമ്മറി യുടെ ഉപദേശം ചെലുത്താൻ വേണ്ടിയല്ല. ദിവാൻജിയുടെ കീഴിൽ ജനപ്രതിനിധികളിൽ ആരോ ഏഴോ പേരടങ്ങിയ ഒരു ഉപദേശക കമ്മറി; അദ്ദേഹം ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടുമ്പോൾ ആവശ്യപ്പെടുന്ന കാര്യത്തെ പ്പറ്റി ഉപദേശം കൊടുക്കുക, ഈ ഏർപ്പാട് ഇന്നത്തെ ആവശ്യമില്ലാ ത്ത അനവധി ഉപദേശകസമതികളേക്കാൾ പ്രയോജനകരമായി രിക്കും.

ക്ഷ ക്ഷ ൦ വ-ൽ ഈ നിയമസഭ കൂടുങ്ങിയ അവസരത്തിൽ @ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ വരെ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ഞങ്ങളുടെ പിടിയിൽ എൽപ്പിച്ചാൽ, കട്ട്മോഷൻമൂലം ഞങ്ങൾക്കു നിശ്ചയം ചെയ്യത്തക്ക പരിധിയിൽ ചെറുത്തിയിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോഴും ആ അധികാരം ഞങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ അന്നത്തെ @ ൦ ൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളക്കാർ ഇപ്പോൾ ൭ ൦ ൦.൦ൻ൦ ൦.൦ രൂപാ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിനാൽ അന്നത്തെ അളുകൾ എല്ലാം ഞങ്ങളുടെ പിടിയിൽനിന്നും ഇപ്പോൾ വിട്ടുപോയിട്ടുണ്ട്. അതുകൊണ്ടു ക്ഷ ൦ ൦.൦ രൂപാ വരെശമ്പളം വാങ്ങിക്കുന്ന ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരെപ്പറ്റി കട്ട്മോഷൻ കൊണ്ടുവരത്തക്ക അധികാരം നിയമസഭകൾക്കു വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കണമെന്നു, അങ്ങു മഹാരാജാവു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ ഉപദേശിക്കണമെന്നാണ്.

PRESIDENT: The matter is under consideration.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH : സർ, ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടിൽ ജാൺ രാജാവിന്റെ കാലത്തു മാഗ്നാകാർട്ടാ ഒപ്പിട്ടുവിച്ചു വാങ്ങിച്ചപ്പോൾ രണ്ടു വലിയ തത്വം അദ്ദേഹത്തെക്കൊണ്ടു് അംഗീകരിപ്പിക്കയുണ്ടായി. ഒന്നു് "No taxation without representation", രണ്ടാമത്തു്, കോടതിയിലെ വിസ്താരം കൂടാതെ ആരേയും ജയിലിൽ വയ്ക്കരുതു്. ഈ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ സ്വസ്ഥമായി റോഡിൽക്കൂടി നടന്നുപോകുകയൊ ക്ഷണംകഴിച്ചു കൊണ്ടിരിക്കയൊ ചെയ്യുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ ആരേയും മറൊരുത്തൻ വന്നു പിടിച്ചുകൊണ്ടു പോയി ജയിലിൽവയ്ക്കാൻ അനുവദിക്കരുതു്. ഒരു കോടതിയിൽ വിസ്തരിക്കാതെ ആരേയും തടവിൽ പാർപ്പിക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. പീലാത്തോസിന്റെ കോടതിയിൽ നടത്തിയ വിസ്താരംപോലെയെങ്കിലും മുന്നാലുപേരോടു മൊഴി വാങ്ങി ഒരു വിധിയുണ്ടായതിനുശേഷമേ ജയിലിൽ വയ്ക്കാവു. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു കോടതിയിൽ വിസ്തരിക്കാതെ തിരുവിതാംകൂർ പൌരന്മാരിൽ ആരേയും തടവിൽ വയ്ക്കാൻ പാടില്ല.

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[Mr. Chazhikattu Joseph]

സർ, അഞ്ചു മിനിട്ടുമുമ്പു അങ്ങു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി, ഇവിടെ മൂന്നോ നാലോ പേരെ മാത്രമേ തടങ്കലിൽ വച്ചിട്ടുള്ളൂ. അതേ സമയം ബ്രിട്ടീഷിൻഡ്യയിൽ ആയിരത്തിലധികം പേരേ വിസ്താരംകൂടാതെ തടങ്കലിൽ വച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു്. സർ, ബ്രിട്ടീഷ് ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ ഭരണരീതിയും ഇവിടത്തെ ഭരണരീതിയും തമ്മിൽ വലിയ അന്തരമുണ്ടു്. ഇൻഡ്യയെ ഭരിക്കുന്നതു ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടിലെ രാജാവാണു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനെ ഭരിക്കുന്നതു ഇവിടത്തെ മഹാരാജാവാണു്. ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടിലെ രാജാവായി ഇംഗ്ലണ്ടിൽ ഇരുന്നുകൊണ്ടു ഇൻഡ്യ ഭരിക്കുന്നവക്കു് ഇൻഡ്യയിലെ ആളുകളെ തടവിൽ വയ്ക്കേണ്ടിവരുന്നതുപോലെയുള്ള ആവശ്യം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ മഹാരാജാവുതിരുമനസ്സിലേക്കു ഉണ്ടാവുകയില്ല. എന്തെന്നാൽ, തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ളവർ നിറഞ്ഞ രാജഭക്തരാണു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ജനങ്ങളുടെ ദേഹത്തു കത്തികൊണ്ടു ഒരു മുറിവുണ്ടാക്കിയാൽ ആദ്യമായി വെളിയിൽ വരുന്നതു രാജഭക്തിയായിരിക്കും. രക്തം വരുന്നതു പിന്നീടായിരിക്കും. ഇമ്മാതിരി രാജഭക്തിയുള്ളവരെ വിസ്തരിക്കുമ്പോലുംചെയ്യാതെ പിടിച്ചു ജയിലിൽ പാപ്പിക്കേണ്ട ആവശ്യം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനു ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുകയില്ല.

സർ, അങ്ങു ഇവിടെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന യാതൊരു നിയമത്തെയും ഞങ്ങൾ എതിർക്കുകയില്ല. അങ്ങു ചുമത്തുന്ന ഏതുകരവും തരാൻ ഞങ്ങൾ തയ്യാറാണു്. എന്നാൽ "No taxation without representation" എന്ന തത്വംകൂടി കൂടെക്കൊള്ളുന്നതാണു്. പുതിയതായി ഏതെങ്കിലും കരം ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നു എങ്കിൽ ജനങ്ങളെ അറിയിക്കാതെയും അതേപ്പറ്റിയുള്ള ഞങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായം എന്താണെന്നറിയാതെയും ചെയ്യുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല.

സർ, ഈ നിയമസഭ കേവലം ആഡംബരത്തിനുവേണ്ടി മാത്രം വച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണോ, എന്നു ചിലപ്പോൾ തോന്നിപ്പോകും. ഫ്രാഞ്ചൈസിന്റെ ഏകദേശം നൂറു അക്ഷരങ്ങൾ ഇവിടെ പാസായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതിൽ ചിട്ടി അക്ഷരം ഒന്നുമാത്രമാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു ഈ നിയമസഭയിൽക്കൂടി പാസായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഈ സഭയുടെ പേർ നിയമനിർമ്മാണസഭ എന്നാണു്; എന്നാൽ ഇവിടെ നിയമനിർമ്മാണം വളരെ കുറവായിട്ടാണു് നടക്കുന്നതു്. ഞാൻ മുമ്പു ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിച്ചതുപോലെ 98 ശതമാനം നിയമങ്ങളും നിയമസഭ മുഖേന അല്ലാതെയാണു് പാസ്സാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളതു്.

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PRESIDENT: Order, order. Honourable member will realise that those Acts had to be passed mainly on account of the exigencies of the war and in order to conform to the practice and to the legislation of the Government of India. They had to be passed practically at three days' notice or one week's notice. As soon as the Government of India passed an Act, they said that during the time of the war, it was necessary to adopt parallel legislation in the States too and it was only in such cases—with one or two exceptions which I shall give when the proper time comes—that these Acts were passed. Honourable member will realise that practically every Indian State and every Province has had to come into line with that legislation. The honourable member will also realise that all those Acts—in fact 70 to 80 per cent.—will automatically go out of existence the moment the war is over.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I point out here that an Act called "The Naturalisation Act" has been promulgated here.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: സർ, അങ്ങിനെയാണെങ്കിൽ അത്യാവശ്യംകൊണ്ടാണ് ഈ നിയമങ്ങൾ പാസാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളതെങ്കിൽ വന്നതു വരട്ടെ മേലാൽ ഇങ്ങനെ നിയമങ്ങൾ പാസാക്കരുതെന്നു മാത്രമേ എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളൂ.

സർ, ആവത്തിക്കുന്നതു ശരിയല്ലെങ്കിലും ഈ നിയമസഭാഹാളിനെപ്പറ്റിതന്നെയാണ് എനിക്കു അടുത്തതായി പറയുവാനുള്ളതു്. പി. ഒ. ആൻഡ് സൺസിൽനിന്നും നവരത്നങ്ങൾ പതിച്ച ഒരു മോതിരം വച്ചിയ വിലകൊടുത്തു വങ്ങിച്ചു, പക്ഷേ ഇട്ടുനോക്കിയപ്പോൾ അതു ഒരു വിരലിലും ചേരുന്നില്ല എന്നു പറഞ്ഞതുപോലെയാണ് ഈ ഹാളിന്റെ സ്ഥിതി. വളരെ പണം ചിലവുചെയ്തു ഒരു ഹാളുണ്ടാക്കി. എന്തിനു? പ്രസംഗിക്കുവാനും അതു കേൾക്കുവാനും. പക്ഷേ ഇതു രണ്ടിനും ഈ ഹാൾ ഉതകാതെയാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഏതെങ്കിലും കാര്യഗൗരവമായ ഒരു പ്രസംഗം അതെങ്കിലും ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ, 'Can't hear,' 'Louder' raise your voice please' എന്നൊക്കെ വിളിച്ചുപറയുന്നതു നാം സാധാരണ കേൾക്കാറുണ്ടല്ലോ. അതുകൊണ്ടു് ഈ ഹാൾതന്നെ ഒന്നു മാറണം. നിയമസഭ പരിഷ്കരിക്കുന്നതോടുകൂടിത്തന്നെ നിയമസഭ കൂടുന്ന സ്ഥലവും മാറേണ്ടതാണു്. നിയമസഭയുടെ അലങ്കാരപ്പണിയും അതുപോലെ ഉടച്ചുവാർക്കേണ്ടതാണു.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE: കറെ ലൗഡ്സ്പീക്കർ വച്ചാൽ മതിയാകുമല്ലോ?

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MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH : ഒന്നു പരിക്ഷിക്കാവുന്നതാണു.

സർ, ഇക്കൊല്ലം കഴിഞ്ഞു, പുതിയ കൊല്ലത്തെ ബഡ്ജറ്റ് അവതരിപ്പിക്കുകയും ചെയ്തു. കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തിൽ എന്തു നടന്നു, അടുത്ത കൊല്ലത്തിൽ എന്തു നടക്കും, ഇതാണ് ബഡ്ജറ്റ് സംബന്ധിച്ചു നാം നോക്കേണ്ടതു്. കർക്കടകമാസത്തിനു ഇൻഡ്യാക്കാർ കൊടുത്തിരിക്കുന്ന അടയാളം ഞണ്ടാണ്. മുമ്പോട്ടും പുറകോട്ടും സൈഡുമായി സഞ്ചരിക്കാൻ കഴിവുള്ള ഒരു ജന്തുവാണ് ഞണ്ടു്. കഴിഞ്ഞകൊല്ലത്തെ സ്ഥിതിഗതികളെ അവലോകനംചെയ്തുകൊണ്ടു് മുടന്തുപോകുന്നപോക്കിൽ പുതിയകൊല്ലത്തെ അഭിമുഖീകരിക്കുവാൻ നമ്മെ സഹായിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സന്ദർഭമാണു് ഇതു്. അതിനാൽ ഈ കർക്കടകത്തിൽ നിന്നുകൊണ്ടു് ഫ ഫ ഫൻ-ലേയും, ഫ ഫ ഠ-ലേയും സ്ഥിതിഗതികളെ നമുക്കു് ഒന്നു സിംഹാവലോകനം ചെയ്കതന്നെ. ഈ കഴിഞ്ഞ കൊല്ലത്തിൽ നടന്നിട്ടുള്ള ഏറ്റവും വലിയ ഒരു സംഭവമായി എന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതു ചീഫ്സെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ സ്ഥാനം ഇല്ലാതാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. ഞാൻ ആളിനെപ്പറ്റി ഒന്നുംതന്നെപറയുന്നില്ല. സ്ഥാനത്തെപ്പറ്റി മാത്രമേ പറയുന്നുള്ളൂ. ഗ്രീസിൽ കോറിന്തു എന്നൊരു കടലിടുക്കുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. അവിടെ പ്രോക്രസ്റ്റസ് എന്നൊരാൾ താമസിച്ചിരുന്നു. ആ കടലിടുക്കിൽക്കൂടി ഉപജീവിപിലേയ്ക്കു പോകുകയൊ വൻകരയിലേയ്ക്കു കടക്കുകയൊ ആരെങ്കിലും ചെയ്തിരുന്നാൽ പ്രോക്രസ്റ്റസ് അവരെ ക്ഷണിച്ചുവരുത്തി തന്റെ കട്ടിലിൽ കിടത്തും. അവർക്കു് തന്റെ കട്ടിലിനേക്കാൾ നീളം കൂടുതലുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ കവിഞ്ഞുവരുന്ന ഭാഗം വെട്ടിക്കളയും; അഥവാ നീളം കുറവാണെങ്കിൽ ഇരുമ്പുകൊടിലിട്ടു വലിച്ചു നീട്ടുകയും ചെയ്യും. ഏകദേശം ഈ തൊഴിൽതന്നെയാണു് ചീഫ്സെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ ആഫീസിലും നടത്തിവന്നിരുന്നതു്. ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ്റ്യുക്ഷന്മാരോ, സെക്രട്ടറിമാരോ അയയ്ക്കുന്ന ഫയലുകൾ എല്ലാം ചീഫ്സെക്രട്ടറിയാകുന്ന പ്രോക്രസ്റ്റസിന്റെ ആഫീസിൽ വരും. അദ്ദേഹം - സൗകര്യംപോലെ അതിനെ വലിച്ചുനീട്ടുകയോ വെട്ടി കുറയ്ക്കുയോ ചെയ്യും. ഇതാണു് ആ ആഫീസിലെ ജോലി. ഈ ചീഫ്സെക്രട്ടറിയുടെ സ്ഥാനം ഉപദ്രവകരമെന്നു് ഇതിനുമുമ്പു്. ഇരുന്ന ദിവാൻജിമാരും അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ദിവാൻ മി. രാഘവയ്യാ ഒരവസരത്തിൽ "Chief Secretary's office is an inferno." എന്നു പറഞ്ഞതായി ഞാൻ കേട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഈ സ്ഥാനം വളരെ മുമ്പുതന്നെ നിറുത്തൽചെയ്യേണ്ടതായിരുന്നു. ഇപ്പോഴെങ്കിലും നിറുത്തിയതു വളരെ നന്നായി. അതിൽ ഞാൻ അങ്ങയെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതിനു പകരമായി ഏർപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ള സംപ്രദായങ്ങളെല്ലാം ശരിയായോ എന്നു

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എനിക്ക് നിശ്ചയമില്ല ഒരു ന്യൂനത പരിഹരിച്ചു എന്നുള്ളതു വാസ്തവംതന്നെ; കാര്യങ്ങൾക്കെല്ലാം ഒരു ഉണർവുണ്ടാകുകയും ചെയ്തു. പക്ഷേ ഗവണ്മെൻറുദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ കാര്യക്ഷമമായ നടത്തിപ്പിനു ഈ മാറ്റം സ്വഭാവാനുയോജ്യമായിത്തീർന്നിട്ടുണ്ടോ എന്നു എനിക്കു സംശയമാണ്. അങ്ങയുടെ സതീർത്ഥ്യൻ ഈ കാര്യത്തിൽ പ്രതിഫലിക്കാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു.

ഈ ക്ഷാമകാലത്തു, സർ, അങ്ങയുടെ സാമർത്ഥ്യംകൊണ്ടു ഭക്ഷണകാര്യത്തിൽ വലിയ വിഷമംക്കൂടാതെയും അന്തഃപുരി ഭയപ്പെടാതെയും അങ്ങേർക്കു ജീവിക്കുവാനുള്ള സൗകര്യം ഉണ്ടാക്കിത്തന്ന എന്നുള്ള വസ്തുത ഇവിടെ കൃതജ്ഞതാപൂർവ്വം അനുസ്മരിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. എന്നാൽ അതുപോലെ ഇപ്പോൾ പുതുതായി കൊണ്ടുവന്നിരിക്കുന്ന ലാൻഡ് ടാക്സ്കാര്യത്തിൽ അങ്ങയെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നില്ല. അതിൻറെ തത്വത്തിൽ ഞാൻ യോജിക്കാം. എന്നാൽ ഇതു പ്രയോഗത്തിൽ വരുത്തുമ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ ക്ലേശം ഉണ്ടാകയില്ലേ എന്നാണു് എൻറെ സംശയം. പുതിയ നികുതിസമ്പ്രദായം അനുസരിച്ചു് ഈ രാജ്യത്തിലെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ആളുകളും ഈ കരത്തിൽ നിന്നും ഒഴിവാക്കപ്പെട്ടേക്കാം ക്രൂതൽ വരവുള്ള ആളുകൾക്കു ക്രൂതൽ വിഷമങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടായി എന്നും വന്നേക്കാം. മരണത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഡാക്ടർ ജാൻസൺ പറയുന്നതുപോലെ—മരിച്ചുകഴിഞ്ഞതിനുശേഷം എന്തു സംഭവിക്കും എന്നറിഞ്ഞാൽ മരണത്തെപ്പറ്റി ആരും ഭയപ്പെടുകയില്ല എന്നാണു് അദ്ദേഹം പറയുന്നതു്—വരുന്നയാണ്ടിൽ പ്രവർത്തിയാർ വന്നു എന്തു കൊണ്ടുപോകുമെന്നുള്ള ഒരു ഭയമാണു് ഈ നികുതിച്ചുമത്തലിനെപ്പറ്റി കേട്ടപ്പോൾ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇരുപതോ മുപ്പതോ കൊല്ലത്തേയ്ക്കു നിലനിൽക്കുന്ന ഒരു സെറ്റിൽമെൻറു നടത്തുന്നതു വ്യയഹേതുകമെന്നു കരുതി അങ്ങു് ഒരുണ്ടതോറും സെറ്റിൽമെൻറു നടത്താമെന്നു തീരുമാനിച്ചതിൻറെ ഔചിത്യം എനിക്കു മനസ്സിലാകുന്നില്ല.

PRESIDENT: That is not the only reason. The reason is not merely economy in the matter of surveys and settlement—although as I have stated that the surveys and settlement will cost us about Rs. 2 crores at least and bring us nothing in return—but the tremendous difference in the incidence of taxation between the North and South, between the places settled long ago and the newly inhabited or colonised places. How to bring about an equitable method of taxation so that people who earn something could pay and people who do not earn anything do not pay?—That is one of the problems before the Government. If the honourable member, with all his experience, can tell us exactly how it should be done, we shall be glad.

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MR CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH : എനിക്ക അറിയാവുന്നതു ഞാൻ പറയാം. ഇപ്പോൾ പാക്കിനു ഒരണയോ രണ്ടണയോ കരം കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു ഒരു നിയമം വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. വേണമെങ്കിൽ നാലണ വീതം കൊടുത്തേക്കാം. ഈ കരം പിരിക്കാൻ വരുന്നവർ നാലണയുടെ പകരം വു അണകൂടി കൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നുണ്ട്. അതാണു വിഷമം. എല്ലാവരും കൈക്കൂലി വാങ്ങുന്നവരാണെന്നല്ല ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. മുകളിലുള്ളവർ ഒരുവിധം ശരിയായിരിക്കും. ജാമടിക്കൽ പ്രൂപ്പോർഷൻപോലെ താഴോട്ടു താഴോട്ടു വരുമ്പോഴാണു് കൈക്കൂലി കൂടിക്കൂടി വരുന്നതു്. സർ, നെല്ലു വാങ്ങിക്കുന്ന കായ്ത്തിൽ വളരെ വളരെ കൈക്കൂലി ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. പണം കൊടുത്താൽ മതി, നമുക്കു് ഇഷ്ടമുള്ളിടത്തോളം നെല്ലു മാത്രമേ അവർ എടുക്കുകയുള്ളു. അവർ അതിനു രസീതും തരും. പുതിയ നികുതിസംപ്രദായം അനുസരിച്ചു് ഓരോരുത്തർക്കും ഭൂമിയിൽനിന്നും കിട്ടുന്ന ആദായത്തിന്റെ കണക്കു എടുക്കേണ്ടതുണ്ടല്ലൊ. സ്ഥലം പാഡ്യുകാക്കു് അതിൽ നല്ലൊരു പങ്കുണ്ടു്. അവരെ ചിങ്ങമാസത്തിൽ ഓണത്തിനു വരുമ്പോഴും മറ്റും കണ്ടു പറഞ്ഞില്ലെങ്കിൽ ഇവന്റെ ആദായം ചിലപ്പോൾ ഏഴായിരം രൂപയിലും മറ്റും കവിഞ്ഞുപോകും. ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള പാഡ്യുകാർകട്ടവാകളിൽനിന്നും, തഹശീൽദാർസിംഹങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ഞങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കണമെന്നാണു് ഞാൻ പറയുന്നതു്. അതിനേക്കാൾ ഭേദം ജനസംഖ്യ അനുസരിച്ചു ഞങ്ങൾ ഓരോരുത്തരും ൫൦ രൂപാവീതം തന്നേക്കണം എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ മതി, തന്നേക്കാം. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിൽ ൩൦ ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങളാണുള്ളതു്. അപ്പോൾ ആറു കോടി രൂപാ വേണം. ആളൊന്നുക്കു് ൫൦ രൂപാവീതം തന്നേക്കാം. ൩൦ കോടി രൂപാ കിട്ടുമല്ലൊ. പോരാ, ഒൻപതുകോടി രൂപാ വേണമെങ്കിൽ ആളൊന്നുക്കു് ൫൧ രൂപാ വീതം തന്നേക്കാം. അതു തന്നുകഴിഞ്ഞാൽ പിന്നെ ആരേയും ഭയപ്പെടാതെ ഞങ്ങൾക്കു സുഖമായി ജീവിക്കാമല്ലൊ.

PRESIDENT : Is the honourable member really serious about it? (Laughter) I am perfectly willing to take his word and if the honourable member will simply give me Rs. 6 crores next year to avoid any taxation and on the basis of a poll tax, I will reform it. (Laughter).

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH : എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്നതു് എന്റെ നിയോജകമണ്ഡലത്തിലെ ഭൂരിപക്ഷം ആളുകളും ഇതു സമ്മതിക്കുമെന്നാണു്. മീനച്ചൽ-തൊടുപുഴ താലൂക്കുകളിൽനിന്നും ഞങ്ങൾ തരേണ്ട സംഖ്യ അങ്ങു തന്നേക്കാം. ബാക്കി താലൂക്കുകളിലെ കൂടി സാർ, അങ്ങുതന്നെ വാങ്ങിച്ചുകൊള്ളണം

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PRESIDENT: Knowing as we do the difficulties of getting Rs. 20 or 30 lakhs by way of land revenue, to suggest that I should be able to get Rs. 6 crores by way of tax through an apportioned sum from each peasant—Mr. Joseph must necessarily pay more—is not going to lead us anywhere. How is that going to be dealt with?

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: അക്ഷരാർത്ഥത്തിൽ ഞാൻ ഇപ്പറഞ്ഞതിനെ സ്വീകരിക്കണമെന്നില്ല; എങ്കിലും ഇക്കാര്യത്തിൽ ജനങ്ങൾക്കുള്ള സങ്കടവും ഭയവും ഇല്ലാതാക്കണം. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു തുക ഇന്നു നിശ്ചയിച്ചേക്കണം. അയ്യായിരം കൊല്ലത്തേയ്ക്ക് അങ്ങു തന്നേക്കാം. തുക കൂടിയാലും ഞങ്ങൾക്കു സൈ്വരമായി ജീവിക്കാമല്ലോ.

ഒരു തോതു വച്ചുകൊണ്ട് ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തേയ്ക്കുള്ള ആദായത്തെപ്പറ്റി ഒരു നിശ്ചിതതീരുമാനം വരുത്തുക. പിന്നെ ആണ്ടുതോറും അതിനെപ്പറ്റി വ്യത്യസ്ഥമായ മറ്റൊരു തീരുമാനമെന്തിന്? ഒരേക്കർ നിലത്തിനു ഇത്ര രൂപാവരെ ഇപ്പോൾ കൊടുക്കണമെന്നിരിക്കട്ടെ. ഈ തുകതന്നെ അടുത്ത കൊല്ലവും കൊടുക്കണം.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: നെല്ലിന്റെ വില കൂടിയും, കുറഞ്ഞും വരികയില്ലേ?

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: വരാം. ആ കാരണംകൊണ്ടുതന്നെ പാവപ്പെട്ട കുടിയാന്മാർക്കു ജനങ്ങളെ കൂടുതൽ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടിക്കാനുള്ള സൗകര്യവും ഉണ്ടാകും.

PRESIDENT: Order, order. On such an important matter I do not wish that there should be any misconception. After all we know roughly what each acre of land gives by way of produce in each locality. We know also for each locality at all events approximately what the cost of cultivation, the cost of seed, etc., is. Already we have for various reasons to calculate what the net result is to each peasant or land-owner. Obviously no Proverthicar and no superior officer who is put in charge of the Proverthicar will levy anything that is wholly disproportionate. If one or two such cases occur, and if what may be called the locality and its possibilities are decided, would it not become almost automatic year after year? In other words, one knows in Kuttanad or in Nanjinad what an acre will fetch. Leaving alone the price of paddy, one knows what, in terms of paddy, it will fetch. Why then should it not be possible for these taxes to be levied each year according to that basis, if no circumstances have happened either to increase the value of the paddy or decrease the value of the paddy or to affect the fruitfulness or the capacity of the field in question.

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MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: സർ, ഞാനും അതുതന്നെയാണു പറയുന്നതു്. ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തേയ്ക്കു് ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു തോതു നിശ്ചയിച്ചാൽ, അതു് അടുത്ത അഞ്ചു കൊല്ലത്തേക്കോ, അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ആറു കൊല്ലത്തേക്കോ മാറുവാൻ പാടില്ല. ഇതിനകം സാധനങ്ങൾക്കു വിലക്കുടുതൽ ഉണ്ടായി എങ്കിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറും, കുറഞ്ഞുപോയി എങ്കിൽ ജനങ്ങളും സഹിക്കണം. ഇങ്ങനെ ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥ ചെയ്യുന്നില്ലെങ്കിൽ, ഞാൻ എന്താണു പറയണ്ടതു്. ജനങ്ങളെ മനഃപൂർവം ഉപദ്രവിക്കുകയായിരിക്കും ഗവണ്മെൻറു ചെയ്യുന്നതു്.

PRESIDENT: Does not the honourable member know that just before the war, that is, in 1938, land-owners were only too anxious to get rid of the land because they were not able to make a comfortable living on that land. That was because, the prices of rice, cocoanut, and other products had gone down. That position does not exist now. At that time, land-tax was really regarded as oppressive or heavy. Now, land tax is proportionately not so heavy. Keeping in view what has happened between 1939 and 1945, does not the honourable member think that a system by which, if not every year but at least once in two or three years, according to the changes that take place in each locality—not for each field because I expect the new taxation will prevent victimisation,—the increase or the decrease would be determined would be more equitable?

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: അനീതി കാണിക്കുന്ന ആളുകളെക്കുറിച്ചു് ഞങ്ങൾ പരാതി അയച്ചാൽ, ഉടനെ അവരെ ശിക്ഷിക്കുകയാണെങ്കിൽ കാര്യങ്ങൾ ശരിയായി നടക്കും. പക്ഷേ അങ്ങനെയല്ലാ കാണുന്നതു്. ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനെപ്പറ്റി ഒരു പരാതി അയച്ചാൽ, ഞാൻ മുൻപേ പറഞ്ഞ പ്രോക്രസ്റ്റസ്സിന്റെ കട്ടിലിന്മേലുള്ള വെട്ടിക്കുറയ്ക്കലും, വലിച്ചുനീട്ടലുമെല്ലാം കഴിഞ്ഞു അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഒരു തീരുമാനം ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ മൂന്നു കൊല്ലം കഴിയും സർ, അങ്ങു് ഇവിടെ ഞങ്ങളോടു കാണിക്കുന്ന മര്യാദയുടെ പത്തിലൊരംശം മര്യാദ പോലും താഴോട്ടുള്ള ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാർ ഞങ്ങളോടു കാണിക്കുന്നില്ല.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: മുന്നേക്കറിൽ കൂടുതലുള്ളവരിൽ നിന്നും കരം ഇരട്ടിയാക്കിയാൽ മതിയെന്നു നിശ്ചയിക്കുന്നതായാൽ ബഹുമാനപ്പെട്ട മെമ്പർ ഇപ്പറഞ്ഞപ്പടമോ?

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: ഇങ്ങനെയുള്ള ചോദ്യങ്ങൾ ചോദിച്ചാൽ എനിക്കു് പെട്ടെന്നു് അതിനു് ഉത്തരം പറയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

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ഒരാഴ്ച അവധി തരുമെങ്കിൽ ഇതിനൊക്കെ മറുപടി പറയാം. നാമെല്ലാം തലപുകഞ്ഞാലോചിച്ചിട്ടും ഒരു തീരുമാനത്തിലെത്തുന്നില്ലല്ലോ.

അതുകൊണ്ട് സ്ഥിരമായ ഒരു ടാക്സേഷൻ വേണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം... അതുണ്ടുതോറും മാറുന്ന തരത്തിലുള്ള ഒരു ടാക്സേഷൻ അയിരിക്കരുത്. ഇതു് എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായമല്ല. നാട്ടിലുള്ള ജനലക്ഷങ്ങളുടെ അഭിപ്രായമാണു്.

സർ, സമർത്ഥനും, യുവാവുമായ നമ്മുടെ പുതിയ ചീഫ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയരെക്കുറിച്ചു് ഒരു വാക്കു പറയാതിരിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഇക്കഴിഞ്ഞ ധനുമാസത്തിൽ ഈ ചീഫ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയരെ ഈ സഭയ്ക്കു പരിചയപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊണ്ടു് അദ്ദേഹം വളരെ സമർത്ഥനാണു്, മിടുക്കനാണു്. എന്നും മറ്റും അങ്ങു പറയുകയുണ്ടായി. അന്നു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞു, ഒന്നു പരീക്ഷിച്ചുനോക്കാതെ സമർത്ഥനാണെന്നു സമ്മതിക്കാൻ തരമില്ലെന്നു്. കഴിഞ്ഞ ആറുമാസക്കാലത്തെ പരീക്ഷണംകൊണ്ടു് അദ്ദേഹം ഒരു സമർത്ഥനും, മിടുക്കനുമാണെന്നു തെളിയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അദ്ദേഹവും ഞാനുംകൂടി മീനച്ചിൽതാലൂക്കിലുള്ള പല ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ചുറ്റി സഞ്ചരിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ യുവാവെന്നു പറയുന്നതിനു കാരണം, അദ്ദേഹം മണിക്കൂറിൽ ൪൦ മൈൽ സ്പീഡിൽ കുറഞ്ഞു് കാർ ഓടിക്കയില്ല. മണിക്കൂറിൽ എട്ടു മൈൽ ദൂരം നടക്കാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തിനു സാധിക്കും. ചെറുപ്പക്കാരേക്കാൾ ഉത്സാഹിതമായ നിലയിലാണു് അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ എല്ലാ പ്രവൃത്തികളും. അദ്ദേഹം പ്രവൃത്തി ചെയ്യിപ്പിക്കുന്നതും അങ്ങിനെതന്നെ. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള നമ്മുടെ ചീഫ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയർ അവർകൾ ബഡ്ജറ്റിൽ, മീനച്ചിൽ, തൊടുപുഴ മുതലായ സ്ഥലങ്ങളിലെ പല റോഡുകൾക്കും തുക ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ടു്. ഒരു യോഗ്യനായ ചീഫ് ഇഞ്ചിനീയരെ ഇവിടെ കൊണ്ടുവന്നതിലുള്ള ക്രെഡിറ്റു് അങ്ങേയ്ക്കുമുണ്ടു്. യോഗ്യന്മാരെ കണ്ടുപിടിക്കുന്നതു യോഗ്യന്മാരുടെ യോഗ്യതയാണു്.

അതേസമയത്തുതന്നെ പുതിയ എഡ്യൂക്കേഷൻ ഡയറക്ടർ ചാഞ്ജിറ്റോടുകൂടി കുട്ടികൾ ഇരട്ടിയായി വർദ്ധിച്ചു. എന്നാൽ അതിനനുസരണമായ വിധം കെട്ടിടങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിച്ചിട്ടില്ല. അവർക്കു പഠിക്കുന്നതിനു പുസ്തകങ്ങൾ ഇല്ല. പഠിപ്പിക്കുന്നതിനു് വാദ്ധ്യാന്മാരുമില്ല. യുദ്ധം വന്നു എന്നവച്ചു് ഏഴാംക്ലാസോ, ഒൻപതാംക്ലാസോ പാസായിട്ടുള്ളവർക്കു് ഇപ്പോൾ വലിയ ക്ഷാമമില്ല. പത്തും ഇരുന്നൂറും കുട്ടികളെ തരുമിച്ചു വച്ചുകൊണ്ടു് രണ്ടും മൂന്നും വാദ്ധ്യാന്മാർ ചില സ്കൂളുകൾ നടത്തുന്നുണ്ടു്.

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MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH: സർ, പുതിയ അഞ്ചൽസൂപ്രണ്ടിനെപ്പറ്റിയും എനിക്ക് ഒരു വാക്കു പറയാനുണ്ട്. അദ്ദേഹം പണ്ടാരവക മെമ്പറന്മാരുടെ ക്ലട്ടത്തിൽ ഉണ്ടോ എന്നറിയാൻ പാടില്ല. ഞാൻ അദ്ദേഹത്തെ അറിയുകയുമില്ല. അദ്ദേഹം വന്നു് ചാർജ്ജെടുത്തതോടുകൂടി അഞ്ചൽഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ സ്വതു കുഴപ്പം. കാർഡു കിട്ടുന്നില്ല, കവർ കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. അഞ്ചലാഫീസുകളിലെ പ്രധാന വ്യാപാരം കവറും കാഡും വില്പനയാണല്ലോ. അതുമാത്രം അവിടെ കിട്ടുന്നില്ല. അതു കൊണ്ടു് ജനങ്ങൾ വളരെ കഷ്ടതകൾ അനുഭവിക്കുന്നു. പത്രങ്ങൾ മുറയ്ക്കു് മുഖപ്രസംഗങ്ങൾ എഴുതുന്നുണ്ടു്, അഞ്ചൽമെയിൽ സമയത്തിനു് കിട്ടുന്നില്ല എന്നു്. കവറും കാഡും കിട്ടുന്ന കാര്യത്തിൽ മേലാലെങ്കിലും ജനങ്ങളെക്കൊണ്ടു് അദ്ദേഹം പരാതി പറയിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നു വിശ്വസിക്കുന്നു.

അടുത്തതായി പോലീസ് മേധാവിയുടെ കാര്യമാണു്. തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ള ൫൦ ലക്ഷം ക്രിസ്ത്യാനികൾക്കു് മനോവേദനയും മാനഹാനിയും ഉണ്ടാകത്തക്കവണ്ണം ഒരു സർക്കുലർ അടുത്തകാലത്തു് പോലീസ് ഇൻസ്പെക്ടർ ജനറൽ അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അതു് അദ്ദേഹം പിൻവലിക്കണമെന്നു് ഞാൻ ആവശ്യപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളുന്നു. അങ്ങനെ പിൻവലിക്കാത്തപക്ഷം പോലീസ് ബഡ്ജറു വരുമ്പോൾ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കു പറയാനുള്ളതു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളാം.

MR. A. P. UDHAYABHANU : സർക്കുലർ എന്താണെന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH : സർക്കുലർ നാളെയൊ, മറെന്നാളോ മേശപ്പുറത്തു വയ്ക്കുന്നതാണു്.

MR. UDHAYABHANU : സർക്കുലർ എന്താണെന്നു് അറിയാതെ അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഞങ്ങൾക്കു് ഒരഭിപ്രായം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതെങ്ങനെയാണു്?

MR. CHAZHIKATTU JOSEPH : അതു വെളിക്കു വരുമ്പോൾ അറിഞ്ഞാൽ മതി.

സർ, ഇവിടത്തെ കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു് എല്ലാവിധത്തിലും നന്നാക്കണം. ഇവിടത്തെ ജനങ്ങളിൽ ഭൂരിപക്ഷവും കൃഷിക്കാരാണു്. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു ഒരു മൈനർ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറായിട്ടാണു് ഇപ്പോൾ ഇരിക്കുന്നതു. കുറഞ്ഞതു് അൻപതു ലക്ഷം രൂപയെങ്കിലും അതിനുവേണ്ടി നീക്കിവയ്ക്കണം. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ ഉദ്യോ

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ഗസ്ഥന്മാരെ ക്രൂടുതൽ നിയമിക്കണം. നല്ല വിത്തുകൾ വരുത്തിക്കൊടുക്കണം. കൃഷിക്ക് ഉപയുക്തമാക്കത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ വിലകുടാതെയും വിത്ത കുറച്ചും വളം കൊടുക്കാൻ കഴിവുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ, അതും ചെയ്യണം. ഒ ാലക്ഷം ഏക്കർ ഭൂമിയാണ് തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലുള്ളത്. അതിൽ ഒന്പ ലക്ഷം ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലത്തു മാത്രമേ ഇപ്പോൾ കൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്നുള്ളു. ബാക്കിയുള്ളതു കായലും, വനവും, തരിശുമായിപ്പോയി. ഒന്പ ലക്ഷം ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം നൂറ ലക്ഷം ജനങ്ങൾക്കായി വീതിക്കുമ്പോൾ ഒരാൾക്കു നാല്പതു സെൻറു മാത്രമേ കിട്ടുകയുള്ളു. ഇതുകൊണ്ടുവേണം തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ ഓരോ ആളിനും ജീവിക്കുവാൻ. അതുകൊണ്ട് ക്രൂടുതൽ തുക അനുവദിച്ച് കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിന്റെ പ്രവർത്തനത്തെ വിപുലപ്പെടുത്തി കൃഷിയെ അഭിവൃദ്ധിപ്പെടുത്തണം.

ഒരു വാക്കുകൂടി പറഞ്ഞുകൊള്ളട്ടെ. അതു് ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നെല്ലിടുപ്പു പദ്ധതിയെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്. ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ നെല്ലിടുപ്പുപദ്ധതി ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വളരെ ദുരിതമായി തീർന്നിരിക്കുന്നു. ഒരു പറ നെല്ലു് ഒന്നര രൂപായ്ക്കു വിറ്റിട്ട് അതേസമയം തന്നെ രണ്ടേകാൽ രൂപാ കൊടുത്തു് അടുത്തുള്ള കടയിൽനിന്ന് അയാൾക്കു നെല്ലു വാങ്ങേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അയാൾ എന്തിന് ഈ പ്രവൃത്തി ചെയ്യുന്നു? അങ്ങനെ ഇതിന് ഉത്തരം പറയണം. ഞാൻ കൊടുക്കുന്ന നെല്ലു തന്നെ ക്രൂടുതൽ വില കൊടുത്തു അയൽപക്കത്തുള്ള കടയിൽനിന്നും വാങ്ങേണ്ടിവരിക, അതു പാടില്ല. അതുകൊണ്ട് റേഷൻകാർഡുമൂലം അരിയും മറ്റും വാങ്ങുന്നവരിൽനിന്നും നെല്ലു വിലയ്ക്കുടുക്കാൻ പാടില്ല എന്നു് ചട്ടം വയ്ക്കണം. ഈ ഒരു ഉത്തരവുകൊണ്ടേ ഈ വിഷമത്തിൽ നിന്നും ജനങ്ങളെ രക്ഷിക്കാൻ കഴുകയുള്ളു. ഇതുയും പറഞ്ഞുകൊണ്ട് തൽക്കാലം ഞാൻ വിരമിക്കുന്നു.

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI: ധനകാര്യദർശി, ഈ സഭയുടെ പരിഗണനയ്ക്കുവേണ്ടി സമർപ്പിച്ച, നവവത്സരബഡ്ജറ്റു്, നിരാശാജനകമാണെന്നതിൽ സംശയമില്ല. വർദ്ധിച്ച വരുമാനവും, സമുചിതമായ മിച്ചവുംകൊണ്ട് ബഡ്ജറ്റു്, പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ സവിശേഷമായ ശ്രദ്ധയെ ആകർഷിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അതീതവർഷങ്ങളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ച് അടുത്തവർഷത്തെ വരുമാനം ആറുകോടിയിലധികമാണെന്നു കാണുന്നതു്, എതുയും ആശാർഹമായ വസ്തുതയാകുന്നു. യാതൊരു പുതിയ നികുതിയും ചുമത്താതെ ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ഈ ഗണനീയമായ വരുമാനം, രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തികപുരോഗമനത്തെ സാരമായി തെളിയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നു. എക്സൈസ്;

[Mr. T. T. Kesavan Sastri]

ടാൻസ്പോർട്ട്, റബ്ബർ, തേയില, അഞ്ചു കാരി ഇനങ്ങളിലായി ഉണ്ടാകുന്ന ആദായത്തിന്റെ സ്വഭാവം ബഡ്ജറ്റു് വ്യക്തമാക്കി കാണിക്കുന്നു. ചെലവിനങ്ങളുടെ വിഭജനരീതിയിലും വേണ്ട ശ്രദ്ധ പതിപ്പിച്ചുകാണുന്നതിൽ സന്തോഷിക്കുന്നു. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സംശ്ലേഷമായ അഭിവൃദ്ധിയെ സ്വരമായി സഹായിക്കുന്ന വിദ്യാഭ്യാസത്തിന്റെയും, കാർഷിക പുരോഗതിയുടേയും, പൊതുജനാരോഗ്യത്തിന്റേയും, വാണിജ്യവ്യവസായാദികളുടേയും ആവശ്യത്തിനു, യോജിച്ച സംഖ്യകൾ പ്രത്യേകം, പ്രത്യേകം വിഭജിച്ചു് നിർദ്ദേശിച്ചിരിക്കുന്ന രീതിയും, ഏറെ നന്നായിട്ടുണ്ടു്. പ്രാധാന്യമർഹിക്കുന്ന നമ്മുടെ യുദ്ധാനന്തരപുനരുദ്ധാരണപദ്ധതികളുടെ നിർവഹണത്തിനു വേണ്ട സംഖ്യകൾ നീക്കിവച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതും എന്തുകൊണ്ടും സ്തുത്യർഹമായിരിക്കുന്നു. നികുതിയിനത്തിൽ വരുത്താൻ ഉദ്ദേശിക്കുന്ന പുതിയ പരിഷ്കാരം അശാസ്യമാകുന്നു. ഇതു് സാധുജനങ്ങൾക്കും, സാമാന്യ കാർഷികജനതക്കു, ആശ്വാസവും, സഹായകവും ആയിരിക്കും. ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ, ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ, പിന്നോക്കസമുദായസംരക്ഷണസന്നദ്ധതയെ, കൃതജ്ഞതാപൂർവം, വീക്ഷിക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നു. സംരക്ഷണഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിനു ഫ്ഫ്ഫ൯-ൽ ൩,൦൦൦-ൽ പരം രൂപാ അനുവദിച്ചിരുന്നു. അതു് ഫ്ഫ൦൦-ൽ ൫,൦൦൦-നു് മേലാക്കി, ഫ്ഫ൦ഫ്-ൽ അതു് ൯൩,൦൦൦-ൽ അധികമാക്കി വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതിൽ, പിന്നോക്കസമുദായക്കാർ അതീവ കൃതജ്ഞരാണെന്നും അറിയിക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ ഈ അവസരം ഉപയോഗിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. ഒരു പ്രത്യേക ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മുഖേന ഇന്നു് നടത്തപ്പെടുന്ന സംരക്ഷണനടപടികളും, തികച്ചും, പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുന്നു, എന്നുള്ള വിവരം, എടുത്തു പറയുവാൻ എനിക്കു സന്തോഷമാണുള്ളതു്. വിദ്യാഭ്യാസസൌജന്യങ്ങളും, ഭൂമിസൌജന്യസഹായങ്ങളും, ആദിയായവയിൽ, ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മുൻനിന്നു വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ടു്: വിദ്യാഭ്യാസകാര്യത്തിൽ തിരുവനന്തപുരത്തേയും, നാഗർകോവിലിലേയും, കോട്ടയത്തേയും, ഹോസ്റ്റലുകളും, ഫീസു് സൌജന്യങ്ങളും, പുസ്തകസഹായങ്ങളുമെല്ലാം പ്രത്യേകം സ്മരണീയങ്ങളാണു്. ഭൂമിദാനസൌജന്യത്തിനു പുറമെ കോളനികളുടെ സ്ഥാപനകാര്യത്തിലും സദയം ശ്രദ്ധിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതു വലിയ അനുഗ്രഹമാണു്. പിന്നോക്കസമുദായക്കാർ ഏറിയപങ്കും അടുക്കുടികളിൽ ജീവിക്കുന്നവരാണു്. വസ്തുഉടമസ്ഥന്മാരുടെ കാരുണ്യത്തിൽനിന്നു തെറ്റിയാൽ കിടപ്പാടമില്ലാതെ നിരാധാരരാകുന്നവരായിരിക്കും എല്ലാം,

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എന്നു പറഞ്ഞാൽ, അതു മുഴുവൻ പരമാത്മാതന്നെയാണ്. അടക്കിടി കൊണ്ടു മുൻപുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ആശ്രയത്തിനും, സഹായത്തിനും സാരതരമായ മാറാം ദൈനംദിനം വന്നുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ ഈ അടക്കടി വൈഷമ്യത്തിനു സ്ഥിരമായ ഒരു പോംവഴിനൽകാൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറു തന്നെ ഭയപ്പായി ശ്രദ്ധിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. ഈ കാര്യം ഇതിനുമുൻപും ഈ സഭയുടെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നിട്ടുള്ളതാകുന്നു. പിന്നോക്കസമുദായക്കാർ താമസിക്കുന്ന കേന്ദ്രങ്ങളിൽ വിശേഷിച്ചു് കാർഷികപ്രാധാന്യമർഹിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ നോക്കി ഓരോ കാളനികരംക്രമേ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തുന്നതു സഹായമായിരിക്കും. നെയ്യാറ്റിൻകര, നെടുമങ്ങാടു്, കൊട്ടാരക്കര, തിരുവല്ലാ, പത്തനംതിട്ട, പത്തനാപുരം, തൊടുപുഴ, കുട്ടനാടു് എന്നീ കാർഷികകേന്ദ്രങ്ങളിൽ ഓരോ കാളനികരം സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതു് പരിതഃസ്ഥിതികരംകൊണ്ടു് ക്രമേണ ഉപകാരമായിരിക്കും. കാളനികരം നേരേ അർഹിക്കുന്ന പ്രയോജനം നരംകുന്നതാണെന്നു പൊതുവേ ബോദ്ധ്യപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ളതാകുന്നു. കോളനികരം എല്ലാം ഒരു കൊല്ലംകൊണ്ടു സ്ഥാപിക്കണമെന്നു ഞാൻ നിർബന്ധിക്കുന്നില്ല. പൊതുവേ എടുത്തുപറഞ്ഞു എന്നേയുള്ളൂ. ഇപ്പോരം ആരംഭിച്ചു് നടത്തിവരുന്ന കാളനികരം എല്ലാം വളരെ വളരെ പ്രയോജനത്തിലും സഹായത്തിലും ഇരിക്കുന്നുവെന്നുള്ളതു് സ്മരണീയമാകുന്നു. പൊതുസ്ഥലങ്ങളും സ്മശാനങ്ങളും ഏറ്റം അത്യാവശ്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങരം നോക്കി സഭയം സ്ഥാപിച്ചു് നൽകുന്നതിൽ ഒന്നുകൂടെ ശ്രദ്ധാന്തിയും, താല്പര്യവും പ്രകാശിപ്പിച്ചു് സഹായിക്കേണ്ടതായിട്ടാണിരിക്കുന്നതു്. സംരക്ഷണത്തിനു സാക്ഷാൽ അർഹർ പുലയരും, പറയരും, കുറവരും മറവരുമാണു്. ഇവരുടെ സംരക്ഷാൽ ഭയനീയാവസ്ഥകരം അധികൃതശ്രദ്ധയിൽപെട്ടുകഴിഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതുമാണല്ലോ. സംരക്ഷണം സമർഹമായിരിക്കുന്നതു് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനും സഹായമായിരിക്കും. സർ, ഈ അവസരത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ അവഗാഢമായ സത്വരശ്രദ്ധക്കു വിഷയമാക്കുവാൻ രണ്ടു മൂന്നു കാര്യങ്ങരം ഉണ്ടു്. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ കാരുണ്യംകൊണ്ടു വളൻവകുപ്പുവരാണല്ലോ പുലയരും പറയരും മറവും. മുപ്പതു രൂപ്പികക്കു മേൽ ശമ്പളമുള്ള ഒരേ ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻപോലും പുലയരിൽ ഇല്ല. പബ്ലിക്കു് സർവീസ്സു് കമ്മീഷനിൽ നിന്നും ഒഴിവാക്കി അവിടുന്നു നേരിട്ടു നിയമനം നടത്തി ഈ കുറവു് സഭയം ഒന്നു പരിഹരിക്കണം. എല്ലാ മുനിസിപ്പാലിറ്റികളിലും, പഞ്ചായത്തുകളിലും, നോമിനേഷൻ നരംകി സഹായിക്കണം എല്ലാ താലൂക്കുകച്ചേരികളിലും ഒരു പ്യൂൺ വീതമെങ്കിലും ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം നിയമനം നരംകി പ്രോത്സാഹി

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[Mr. T. T. Kesavan Sastri.]

പ്പിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ടതു ചെയ്യണം. സൌജന്യനിരക്കിൽ നൽകുന്ന ഭൂമി കൾ അന്യാധീനപ്പെടുത്തുന്നവരുടെ മേൽ സദയം നടപടി എടുക്കണം. പിന്നോക്കസമുദായക്കാർക്കു വ്യവസ്ഥചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ള സൌജന്യങ്ങൾ കേവലം നാമമാത്രസാക്ഷിത്വേന, അപഹരിക്കുന്നവരുടെ മേൽ വേണ്ട നടപടികൾ എടുക്കാൻ ദയവുണ്ടാകണം. ഒന്നു രണ്ടു ഗസറ്റഡ് ആഫീസ്സറന്മാരെയെങ്കിലും കുറഞ്ഞ പടിയിലായാലും നിയമിച്ചു സഹായിക്കണം. സ്കോളർഷിപ്പുകളും സഹായങ്ങളും നൽകി സമർത്ഥന്മാരായ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളെ ഉന്നത വിദ്യാഭ്യാസവിഷയത്തിൽ പ്രോത്സാഹിപ്പിക്കണം. വാണിജ്യവ്യവസായാദികാര്യങ്ങളിൽ വേണ്ട പ്രേരണയും സഹായവും നൽകണം. പിന്നോക്കസമുദായക്കാരുടെ അംഗീകൃത രജിസ്റ്റേഡ് വർഗ്ഗീയ സംഘടനകൾക്കു മൻഗണനയും പ്രോത്സാഹനവും നൽകണം. പുലയരിൽ ഒരൊറ പെൻഷൻഡ് ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥൻപോലും ഇന്നും ഇല്ലെന്നു ഗവണ്മെൻറ് ദയവായി ധരിക്കണം. സർ, മറെറാന്നു കർഷകരാജ്യമായ തിരുവിതാംകൂറിലെ കൃഷ്യഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പരിഷ്കരിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. കൃഷിഡിപ്പാരട്ടുമെൻറിനു അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഖ്യ തുലോം കുറവാണു്. കൂടുതൽ സംഖ്യ നൽകിയും വേണ്ട പരിഷ്കാരപരിപാടികൾ അംഗീകരിച്ചും കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു മുഖേന പൊതുജനങ്ങളെ സഹായിക്കാൻ സദയം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കണം. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെയും, കൃഷിഡയറക്ടർ അവർകളുടെയും മുമ്പാകെ വന്നിട്ടുള്ള പൊതുജനാഭ്യർത്ഥനയെ പരിഗണിച്ചു് വാഴ നശീകരണനടപടികൾക്കു ഒരു സാവകാശം നൽകി സഹായിക്കണം. കുങ്കുമാശ്ശേരിയിലും, കോട്ടയത്തും, പാമ്പാടിയിലും, വാഴത്താനത്തും മറ്റും പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ ചേർന്നു് യോഗങ്ങൾ കൂടി അവരുടെ ആവലാധി പ്രകടിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിവരം എനിക്കു നേരിട്ടറിയാൻ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളതിനാൽ വിവരം പ്രത്യേകം പ്രസ്താവിക്കുന്നതാണു്. ഇനിയൊന്നു്, ഒരു മുസ്ലീം സമുദായാംഗവും, ശാന്തനും, സമർത്ഥനുമായ മി. പി. എ. കാസിം സാഹിബിനെ ഡിവിഷൻ പേഷ്കാരായി നിയമിച്ചതിലും, ഒരു കത്തോലിക്കനായ ഡിവിഷൻ പേഷ്കാർ മി. ററി. ചാണ്ടിയെ പബ്ലിക്കു സർവീസു കമ്മിഷണരായി നിയമിച്ചതിലും ഗവണ്മെൻറു കാണിച്ച ഔചിത്യത്തെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുകയെന്നുള്ളതാണു്. ഭരണകാര്യങ്ങളിൽ പ്രാപ്തന്മാരെ നിയോഗിക്കുന്നതിലും, അവരുടെ സേവനകാര്യങ്ങളെ നിരീക്ഷണം ചെയ്യുന്നതിലും, ഗവണ്മെൻറു കൈക്കൊള്ളുന്ന ആശാസ്യനടപടികളിൽ പൊതുജനങ്ങൾ പ്രത്യേകം ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള വിവരവും എടുത്തു പറയുവാൻ ഞാൻ ഈ സമയം ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തിക്കൊള്ളുന്നു.

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MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI : അദ്ദേഹം ടെക്സ്റ്റയിൽ കമ്മീഷണർ ആയിരുന്ന കാലത്തു ടെക്സ്റ്റയിൽ ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ അഴിമതികളെപ്പറ്റി ഇവിടെ ഉണ്ടായ വാദപ്രതിവാദത്തെ തുടർന്നാണോ ഈ നിയമനം നടന്നതെന്നുള്ളതിനെപ്പറ്റി എന്താണ് അഭിപ്രായം ?

MR. T. T. KESAVAN SASTRI : സർ, എന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തെപ്പറ്റി നിരൂപണം ആവശ്യമില്ല. എന്നെ സംബന്ധിച്ചിടത്തോളം അർഹതയെപ്പറ്റി എനിക്കു തോന്നുന്ന നല്ല അഭിപ്രായം ഞാൻ ഇവിടെ എടുത്തു പറഞ്ഞു എന്നേയുള്ളൂ. സർ, വ്യാഴവട്ടത്തിന്റെ വിശിഷ്ഫലം നിരീക്ഷണം ചെയ്യുന്നവർക്കു കഴിഞ്ഞു ഏ. ഡ. സംവത്സരംകൊണ്ടു തിരുവിതാംകൂറിനുണ്ടായിട്ടുള്ള നേട്ടങ്ങളെ കാണാൻ സാധിക്കുന്നു. വിവിധമാർഗ്ഗങ്ങളിലൂടെ സാധിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള പുരോഗതി അസൂയാലുക്കളെപ്പോലും അശ്ചര്യപരതന്ത്രരാക്കാതിരിക്കയില്ല. വാണിജ്യവ്യവസായാദിസാദ്ധ്യതകൾ വിദേശീയരുടെ പോലും അഭിനന്ദനങ്ങൾക്കു അർഹമായിരിക്കുന്നു. സാമ്പത്തികസ്ഥിതി ലക്ഷക്കണക്കിൽ നിന്നും ഉയർന്നുയർന്നു കോടിക്കണക്കിൽ എത്തി. അതു ഒരുകോടിയായി, രണ്ടുകോടിയായി, മൂന്നുകോടിയായി, നാലുകോടിയായി, അഞ്ചുകോടിയായി, ആറുകോടിയിലുമധികമായിരിക്കുന്നു. തിരുവിതാംകൂർ എങ്ങോട്ട് ? എന്നു ചോദിച്ചുയർന്ന ഇന്ന് എന്തു പറയുമെന്നറിയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. അടുത്ത ഭാവി ഇതിലും ഉപരി ശ്രേയസ്കരമായിത്തീരുമാറാകട്ടെ.

സർ, ഇനിയും ഒന്നു പ്രസ്താവിക്കുവാൻ ഞാൻ ആഗ്രഹിക്കുന്നതു വഞ്ചീ പൂവ്വർഫണ്ടിനെപ്പറ്റിയാണ്. ഈ മഹാസ്ഥാപനം ധർമ്മരാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സമുന്നതമായ ധാർമ്മികനാമത്തെ ദൃഢപ്പെടുത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സ്ഥാപനത്തിന്റെയും, അന്നദാനഭവനത്തിന്റെയും പ്രയോക്താവായ അങ്ങയുടെ നാമം തിരുവിതാംകൂറുകാരുടെ ഹൃദയഫലകങ്ങളിൽ എന്നും മായാത്ത അക്ഷരങ്ങളാൽ രേഖപ്പെടുത്തിക്കഴിഞ്ഞിരിക്കുന്നു. വഞ്ചി പൂവ്വർഫണ്ടിന്റെ മഹനീയമായ നടത്തിപ്പിന്റെ ഉത്തരവാദിത്വം വഹിക്കുന്ന മി. എസ്സ്. ചിദംബരവും പൊതുജനങ്ങളുടെ കൃതജ്ഞതക്കു സർവ്വദാ അർഹനാകുന്നു. പൊന്നുതമ്പുരാൻ ശ്രീചിത്തിരതിരുനാൾ പ്രജകളുടെ പ്രത്യക്ഷ ദൈവമാണ്. ഈ സ്ഥാപനംകൊണ്ട് അങ്ങു പാവങ്ങളുടെ—അനേക ലക്ഷങ്ങളുടെ പരദൈവതവുമായിരിക്കുന്നു. ഈ സന്ദർഭത്തിൽ പൂവ്വർഫണ്ടിൻ ലക്ഷക്കണക്കിൽ ഉറുപ്പിക നൽകിയും, ധനവാന്മാർക്കു മാതൃക നൽകിയും സഹായിച്ച ഉദാരമതി

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[Mr. T. T. Kesavan Sastri.]

കളായ ശ്രീ അഴകപ്പാചെട്ടിയാരെയും, ശ്രീ രാജമാണിക്കത്തെയും മറവും അനുസ്മരിക്കാനും അവരുടെ നേരേയുള്ള അവാച്യമായ കൃതജ്ഞത പ്രകാശിപ്പിക്കുവാനും കൂടി സമയം ഉപയോഗിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു. പൂവ്വർ ഫണ്ടു് ശാഖകളും ശാഖോപശാഖകളും നാടുകി, വഞ്ചി, കൽക്കുളത്തു വായിത്തീരാൻ ഞാൻ ഹൃദയപൂവം പ്രാത്ഥിക്കുന്നു.

The House rose at 6 P. M.

Assembly Office, S. VAIDYANATHA AIYAR,
Trivandrum, 25TH July 1945 *Secretary to the Sri Mulam Assembly.*

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